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CRIME STATISTICS IN CANADA, 1999

by Sylvain Tremblay

Highlights

- Canada's police-reported crime rate decreased by 5% in 1999, the eighth consecutive annual drop. The 1999 rate was the lowest rate since 1979.
- The majority of provinces reported a drop in their crime rate, including the three most populated: Quebec (-8%), Ontario (-7%) and British Columbia (-5%). Only the Atlantic provinces and the Yukon reported increases.
- Newfoundland continued to show the lowest crime rate (5,921 incidents per 100,000 population) followed closely by Quebec (5,934), while Saskatchewan, despite a 3% decline in 1999, reported the highest (12,155) for the second straight year.
- For the second consecutive year, the crime rate dropped in each of the nine largest metropolitan areas in 1999. The largest decreases were seen in Ottawa (-15%) and Québec (-10%).
- Even with a 5% decline in 1999, Vancouver showed the highest crime rate among the nine largest metropolitan areas, while Québec and Toronto reported the lowest.
- Of the 2.36 million *Criminal Code* incidents, 12% were violent crimes, 55% were property crimes, and the remaining 33% were other offences such as mischief, disturbing the peace, prostitution and arson.
- The rate of violent crime declined for the seventh consecutive year, down 2%. Despite these recent declines, the violent crime rate was still 5% higher than 10 years ago and 57% higher than 20 years ago. All major categories of violent crime decreased in 1999, including homicide (-5%), sexual assault (-7%), assault (-2%), and robbery (-2%).
- There were 536 homicides in 1999, 22 fewer than in the previous year. The homicide rate has generally been falling since the mid-1970s. The 1999 rate of 1.8 homicides per 100,000 population is the lowest since 1967.
- The property crime rate dropped 6%, continuing the general decline that began in 1991. All major categories of property crime decreased in 1999, including breaking and entering (-10%) and motor vehicle theft (-4%).
- The only offences that have increased over the past few years have been disturbing the peace (+31% since 1995) and drug offences (+32% since 1993).
- The youth crime rate, as measured by the number of youths charged with a *Criminal Code* offence, dropped 7% in 1999, including a 5% decline in violent crime and an 11% decrease in property crime. The rate of youths "not charged" (eg. dealt with informally by police or referred to an alternative measures program) also dropped in 1999 for these categories.



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Introduction

Crime includes acts that are clearly defined as “criminal” under the Canadian *Criminal Code*. Examples of “criminal” behaviour include sexual assault, breaking and entering, and impaired driving. To measure the magnitude, nature and impact of criminal behaviour, there are two sources of information: police-reported data and victimization surveys.

Every year since 1962, Canada’s police agencies have reported criminal incidents that come to their attention, or are detected themselves, to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) by means of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey (see methodology section for survey description). In 1999, a national victimization survey was conducted, the results of which will be released later this year¹. While police-reported data measures crimes known to the police, victimization surveys collect information directly from the general population related to being a crime victim, regardless of whether or not the crime was reported to police.

This report is an examination of 1999 police-reported crime in Canada. Data are presented within the context of both short and long term trends. The analysis focuses on trends in violent crime, property crime, impaired driving offences, drug offences and youth crime. Crime rates are examined at the national and provincial/territorial level, as well as for major metropolitan areas. The trend in Canada’s crime rate is put into perspective by comparing it with crime trends in some other industrialized countries. Detailed information on incidents, accused and victims is also presented when appropriate.

The CCJS gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Canada’s police agencies and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACFP) in making this report possible.

Interpreting police-reported crime data

Data on incidents that come to the attention of the police are captured and forwarded to the CCJS according to a nationally-approved set of common crime categories and definitions. The reader should note, however, that many factors could influence official crime statistics. These include: reporting by the public to the police; reporting by police to the CCJS; the impact of new initiatives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices; and social, economic, and demographic changes.

Reporting to police

It can be argued that official crime statistics merely reflect Canadians’ willingness to report criminal activity to police. There are many reasons why victims may not report these incidents to police: the feeling that police cannot help or that the incident is a personal matter (e.g., domestic violence or some assaults); the level of seriousness related to the incident; and, the fear of reprisals from the aggressor or of the possible negative consequences of criminal justice system intervention. However, other factors such as the willingness to see the offender caught, a feeling of social obligation to report criminal behaviour, as well as the need for a police report to receive insurance compensation may all encourage people to report certain offences to police.²

Victimization surveys aid in providing estimates for certain crimes not reported to police.³ Although the non-reporting of crimes to the police can lead to an under-counting of official police crime statistics, the opposite can also be true: as the

¹ The victimization component of *The General Social Survey* is conducted by Statistics Canada every five years. A *Juristat* entitled “Trends in criminal victimization in 1999” is planned to be released in September 2000.

² See “Decision Making in the Criminal Justice System: Toward the Rational Exercise of Discretion” by Gottfredson and Gottfredson (1988), *Law, Society, and Policy*, vol. 3, New-York: Prenum.

³ For more information see “Criminal Victimization : An International Perspective” by Sandra Besserer, *Juristat*, Catalogue No. 85-002, Vol. 18, No. 6.

tolerance of Canadians for certain crimes lowers, reporting to police will increase, driving crime statistics upward. For example, increased education in the areas of family violence, sexual assault and youth crime may have lowered society's tolerance for these behaviours which, in turn, may encourage victims and witnesses to report to police and encourage police to lay more charges.

Reporting by police to the CCJS

Crimes reported to the CCJS by police agencies are subjected to numerous quality-control procedures, both on-site at the police agency and at the CCJS. The CCJS and police agencies work together on an on-going basis to detect and resolve any difficulties in the reporting or transmission of data.

Concerns have been raised that tighter budgets during the 1990's have diminished the ability of some police agencies to respond to, and document, all incidents reported to them. This situation might have resulted in less complete reporting of offences to the UCR survey, and therefore contributed in part to the recent decreases in crime. However, the fact that serious crimes (those crimes which are more likely to be recorded by police) have been declining as much as less serious crimes, suggests that any change that may have occurred in reporting by police is not significant.

Moreover, a comparison of trends among police agencies across all provinces/territories shows that virtually all agencies have been experiencing decreases in reported crime in recent years.

Changes in legislation, policies and practices

Changes in legislation, policies and police enforcement practices may also have an impact on police-reported statistics. For instance, where an amendment to the *Criminal Code* creates a new offence or broadens the definition of an existing one, the number of incidents reported to police will likely increase. Similarly, the creation of new criminal offences (eg., criminal harassment, failure to stop during a police pursuit, offences related to organized crime) exerts an influence on the overall level and characteristics of crime.

For certain crimes, the rise and fall of statistics is largely driven by police enforcement. Crimes such as prostitution, drug offences and impaired driving are most often identified through police-enforcement activities, or "proactive" policing, and are rarely reported by the public. Therefore, police enforcement efforts, such as special operations to target these types of crime, will affect official crime statistics.

Other theories have been advanced to explain the recent declines in the crime rate: the advent of community policing; increased enforcement and new strategies to reduce the incidence of certain crimes; improvements in case management and new approaches to solving crimes; and, finally, crime prevention. Although all these factors can certainly have an effect on crime, the magnitude of their impact is difficult to determine.

Key terminology and definitions

Offence or crime

These two terms refer to the number of *Criminal Code* "actual" incidents reported by police to CCJS, excluding traffic crime and other federal statutes such as drug offences, unless noted otherwise. "Actual" incidents are those which have been substantiated through police investigation.

Criminal Incident

One incident can include more than one offence. **For incidents involving multiple offences, only the most serious offence in the incident is counted.** Unless otherwise stated, violent crime counts reflect the number of victims in the incident, whereas non-violent crime counts reflect the number of incidents or occurrences of crime.

Crime rate

Crime rates are based on 100,000 population (see Table 9 for population estimates used in the calculation of rates).

Accused Persons

This includes all persons identified by police as having committed a crime as a result of an investigation, whether or not they have been formally charged.

Persons charged

This term refers to persons who have been formally charged or recommended to be charged by police.

For more information on the UCR Survey, refer to the Methodology section at the end.

1999 Crime Trends

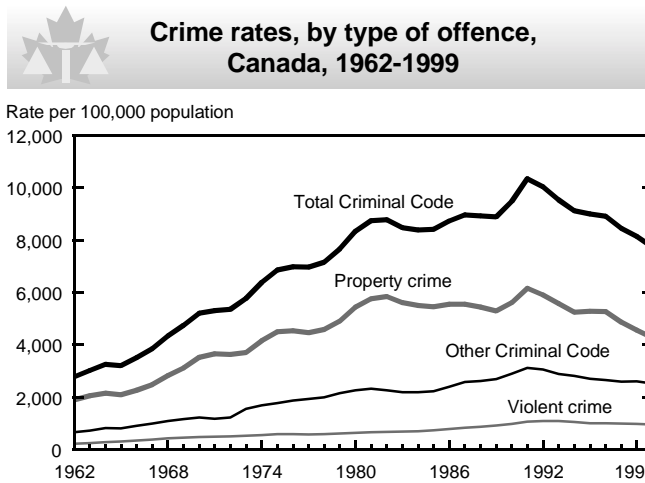
Of the 2.36 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic and drug incidents) reported in 1999, 12% were violent crimes, 55% were property crimes, and 33% were other *Criminal Code* crimes (e.g. mischief, prostitution, arson, bail violations, disturbing the peace). This distribution of police-reported crime is dynamic: the proportion of crimes that are property-related has fallen continuously since 1971, when they accounted for 69% of all crimes.

In addition, there were approximately 137,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents (6 out of 10 were impaired driving offences), 80,000 drug incidents and 39,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g. *Excise Act, Immigration Act, Canada Shipping Act*) reported. In total, police reported 2.6 million federal statute incidents in 1999.

Lowest crime rate since 1979

After peaking in the early 1990s, Canada's crime rate has been falling steadily. In 1999, the police-reported crime rate (7,733 incidents per 100,000 population) dropped for the eighth consecutive year (-5%), an unprecedented stretch since the UCR survey began in 1962 (Table 1). Over these eight years, the crime rate has decreased by an average of 4% per year, resulting in the 1999 rate being the lowest since 1979 (Figure 1). While the 1999 rate is equivalent to the rate 20 years ago, it is still 63% higher than 30 years ago. The only offences that have been increasing over the past few years are disturbing the peace (up 31% since 1995) and drug offences (up 32% since 199) (Table 2).

Figure 1



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Only increases reported in the Atlantic provinces and the Yukon

There is considerable regional variation in crime rates across Canada (Table 3). During the 1990's, crime rates in the eastern part of Canada (Atlantic provinces, Quebec and Ontario) have generally been lower than those in the western provinces. Nova Scotia and Alberta are the exceptions to this general trend. Nova Scotia's crime rate is higher than its neighbouring provinces, while Alberta's is lower. Both these provinces now have crime rates similar to the national rate.

In 1999, provincial crime rates ranged from a low of 5,921 incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland⁴ to 12,155 in Saskatchewan, where the crime rate showed its first decline (-3%) since 1994. All three territories reported crime rates higher than any of the provinces, ranging from 18,074 to 24,040.

Only the Atlantic provinces and the Yukon reported increases in their crime rate in 1999: Yukon (+10%), Prince Edward Island (+10%), Nova Scotia (+2%), Newfoundland (+2%) and New Brunswick⁵ (+1%).⁶ Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, which represent three-quarters of the Canadian population, reported drops of 8%, 7%, and 5% respectively, contributing to the national decline of 5%.

Crime also down in a majority of census metropolitan areas

For the second straight year, crime rates declined in each of the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)⁷ in 1999 (Table 4). These nine metropolitan areas represent nearly half (46%) of all offences reported by police services in Canada. The largest drops were reported in Ottawa⁸ (-15%) and Québec (-10%). Most of the other metropolitan areas, which had populations between 100,000 and 499,999, also reported decreases, the largest drops being reported in Chicoutimi-Jonquière (-17%) and Windsor (-16%) (Table 5).

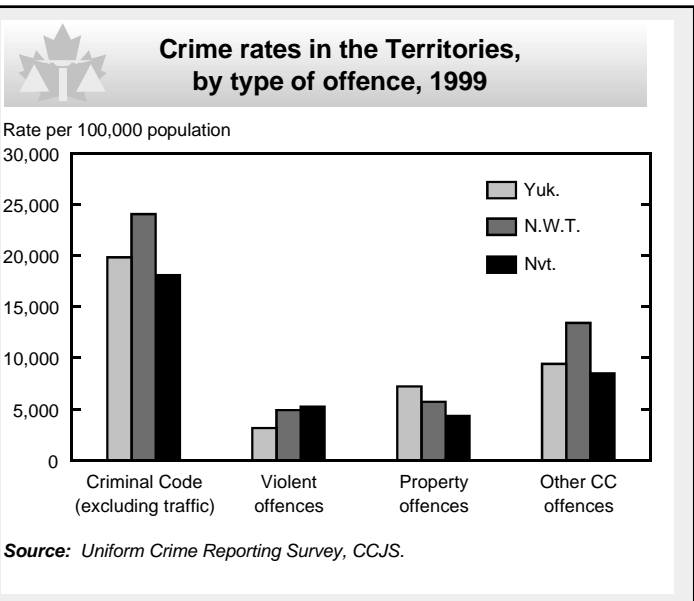
Among all 24⁹ CMA's, the lowest crime rates were reported in Quebec (4,790), Chicoutimi-Jonquière (5,249), and Toronto

⁴ Royal Newfoundland Constabulary St. John's jurisdiction was unable to contribute 1999 crime statistics due to a new Police Information and Management System. As such, 1999 data have been substituted with 1998 counts.
⁵ It should be noted that, due to the small populations in Prince Edward Island and the territories, a relatively small change in the number of incidents can result in a large percentage change in the rates.
⁶ In 1998, Codiac Regional was unable to provide accurate crime statistics due to a change in police information systems. As such, 1998 data have been substituted with 1999 counts.
⁷ A CMA refers to a large urban core (over 100,000 population) together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA. Usually, more than one police force is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a CMA.
⁸ "Ottawa" in this report refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.
⁹ Royal Newfoundland Constabulary St. John's jurisdiction was unable to contribute 1999 crime statistics due to a new Police Information and Management System.

Nunavut's crime rate similar to the other territories

The territory of Nunavut officially joined Canada's 10 provinces and 2 territories on April 1, 1999. The majority of its 27,000 inhabitants are Inuit, and its residents have the youngest average age (25 years) in Canada. In order to provide a full year of data, crime statistics for the first three months of 1999 from the Northwest Territories were divided according to the new territory represented by Nunavut. These data show that Nunavut's 1999 crime rate was slightly lower than the Yukon and 25% lower than the Northwest Territories.

Among the three territories, Nunavut reported the highest violent crime rate (5,241), the Yukon reported the highest property crime rate (7,221), while the Northwest Territories showed the highest rate for other Criminal Code offences (13,421). This latter observation is explained by the fact that the mischief rate in the N.W.T. is about double that of the other territories.



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

(5,385). At the opposite end, Regina showed the highest crime rate (15,191) for the third consecutive year, followed by Victoria (11,865), Saskatoon (11,640), and Vancouver (11,562).

Crime is also falling in many industrialized countries

Many industrialized countries have also experienced recent declines in their crime rates over the past few years. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the preliminary 1999 indexed crime rate¹⁰ in the United States dropped for the eighth year in a row (-3%), including a 5% decrease in violent crime and a 2% decline in property crime. Although these drops were less than the decreases reported in 1998, all crimes included in the index decreased in 1999, including murder (-7%), robbery (-5%), burglary (-5%), and motor vehicle theft (-4%).

Elsewhere, reported crime in England and Wales has also fallen annually since 1992, including a small decrease (-1%) in 1999.¹¹ Violent crime was down 6%, while property crime was down 1%. Australia, Germany and Spain also reported drops in their crime rates since 1995.¹²

¹⁰ The U.S. Crime Index is composed of the violent crimes of murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault (not common assault), and the property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

¹¹ See the report entitled Recorded Crime Statistics, England and Wales, by D. Povey and J. Prime, Home Office, England, October 1999. The annual report is based on the time period from April 1998 to March 1999 and the percent changes are based on actual numbers.

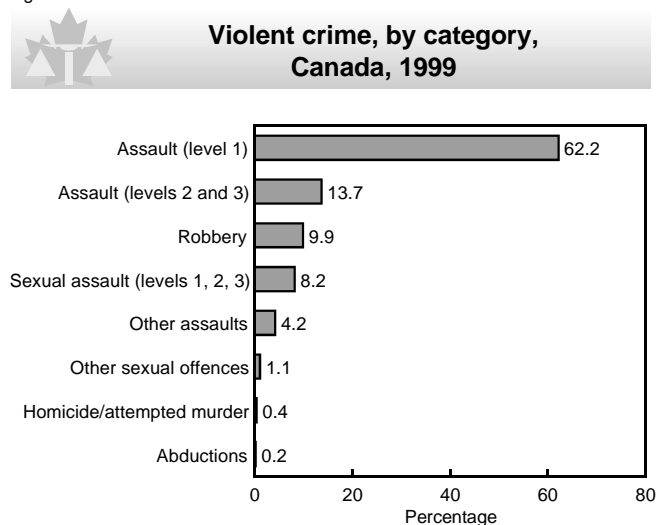
¹² See the report entitled International Comparisons of Criminal Justice Statistics, 1998, by G. Barclay and C. Tavares, Home Office, England, February 1999. Analyses covered up to 1998 and the percent changes are based on actual numbers.

Violent Crime

Violent crime continues to drop

Violent criminal incidents (291,330 in 1999) include homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery (Figure 2). Violent crimes comprised 12% of *Criminal Code* offences in 1999.

Figure 2



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

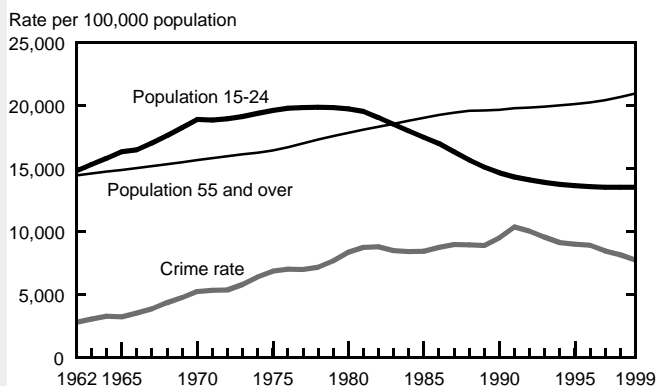
Changing demographics and the crime rate

The decline in crime rates since the early 1990s has coincided with the decreasing proportion of persons aged 15 to 24 during this time period. This group is recognized as those who commit a large number of criminal offences as well as being victims of crime. In 1999, persons aged 15-24 years represented 15% of the total population while accounting for 43% of those charged with property crimes and 30% of persons charged with violent crimes.

The figure shows the trend in overall crime and in the number of 15 to 24 year-olds as rates per 100,000 population. Between 1962 and 1978, both lines show a constant increase: the crime rate climbed 158%, while the rate of 15 to 24 year-olds increased by 34%. However, while crime continued to increase until peaking in 1991, the rate of 15 to 24 year-olds declined. Since 1991, both measures have decreased: the crime rate by 25% and the population 15 to 24 by 6%. In summary, variations in the size of the high-risk offender age group have had some effect on the crime rate, but the amount of this influence is not clear, and other factors have also influenced the crime rate trend.

The third line on the graph represents the important growing segment of the population aged 55 and over. In 1999, this age group represented 21% of the population. Contrary to the 15-24 age group, the 55+ age group is characterized by very low involvement in crime, both as accused and as victims¹³, yet is most fearful of being a crime victim. This group is increasing by an average of 2.5% each year, and is projected to grow continuously from now until 2020.¹⁴ The growth of this segment of the population will certainly have an influence on criminality as well as police practices over the years to come.

Crime rate and demographics, Canada, 1962-1999



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS and the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999 report.

¹³ The International Criminal Victimization Survey (1996) showed that the victimization rate for those 55 and over was 31 per 1,000 population, compared to 312 for those aged 15 to 24. The 1993 GSS showed similar findings.

¹⁴ Cansim (on-line), Statistics Canada, Ottawa. Population Projections by Sex and age Group for Canada. Matrix 6900. Internet address: <http://www.statcan.ca>.

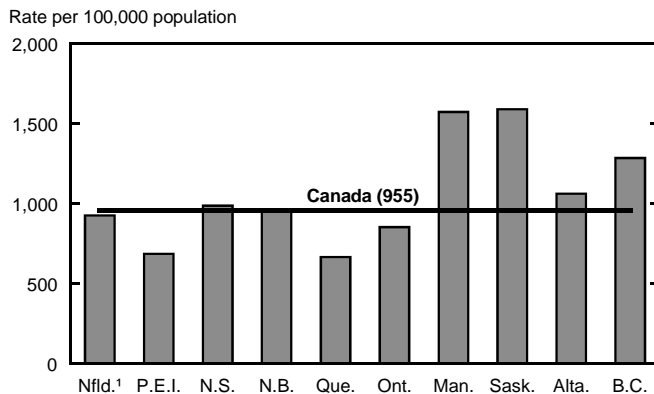
The violent crime rate declined for a seventh consecutive year in 1999 (-2%). Prior to these declines, the violent crime rate had increased for 15 straight years (Figure 1). These declines have been observed in all categories of violent crime with the exception of a small increase in robberies committed with a weapon other than a firearm (eg. knife) (+1%). Despite these recent declines, the violent crime rate is still 5% higher than a decade ago, 57% higher than 20 years ago, and more than double the rate of 30 years ago. If common assaults (the least serious form of assault which accounts for more than 6 in 10 violent crimes) were excluded, the violent crime rate would actually be 10% lower than 10 years ago.

Although the national violent crime rate decreased in 1999, there were variations among the provinces. Newfoundland (+4%), New Brunswick (+3%) and Quebec (+3%) reported the largest increases, while Nova Scotia reported a minor rise (+1%). All other provinces showed drops, with the largest being in Prince Edward Island (-6%), Ontario (-5%) and British Columbia (-5%).

Violent crime rates in the west were much higher than in the rest of the country (Figure 3). Saskatchewan (1,589) and Manitoba (1,572) reported the highest rates. Quebec (666) and Prince Edward Island (685) continued to report the lowest, a pattern consistent with previous years.

Figure 3

Violent crime, Canada and the provinces, 1999



¹ Data for St-John's were not available for 1999 and have been estimated based on the 1998 data.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Twenty-one of the 24 CMAs recorded a drop in their violent crime rate in 1999: only Sudbury (+6%), Montréal (+3%), and Québec (+2%) reported increases. Regina reported the highest violent crime rate (1,709), followed by Thunder Bay (1,525) which had shown the highest violent crime rate for the past eight years (since CMA data were first available in 1991), and Saskatoon (1,332). The lowest violent crime rates were reported in Sherbrooke (396), Québec (465) and Trois-Rivières (475).

Among the nine largest CMAs, Winnipeg (1,232) and Vancouver (1,120) reported the highest rates, while Quebec (465) reported by far the lowest (Table 5).

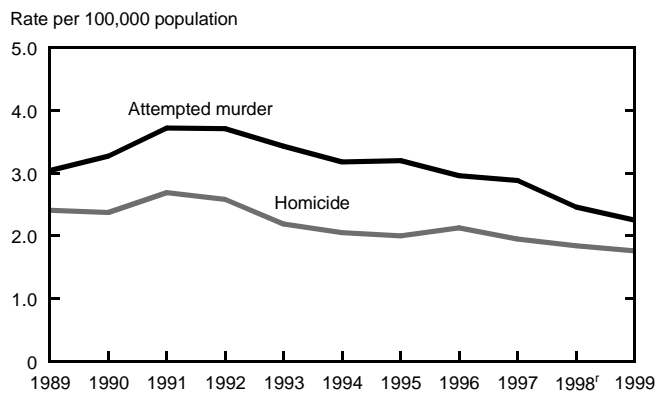
Homicides at lowest level since 1967

Homicide includes first and second-degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide. In 1999, there were 536 homicides and 685 attempted murders. Together these crimes account for less than a half of one percent of reported violent incidents. The homicide rate (1.8 per 100,000 population) has generally been declining since the mid-1970s. In 1999, this trend continued with a 5% drop in the rate (22 fewer homicides than in 1998), and is at the lowest point since 1967. The rate of attempted murders also fell in 1999 (-9%), the lowest since 1973. Figure 4 clearly illustrates the parallel trend over the past 10 years between homicides and attempted murders.

In 1999, the homicide rate dropped in half of the 24 CMAs. The highest rates were found in Thunder Bay (3.2 - a total of 4 homicides), Vancouver (2.8 - a total of 61) and Victoria (2.8 - a total of 9). For the second year in a row, no homicides were reported in Trois-Rivières.¹⁵

Figure 4

Homicide and attempted murder incidents, Canada, 1989-1999



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Sexual assaults drop for the sixth year in a row

Sexual assault is classified into one of three levels according to the seriousness of the incident: level 1 sexual assault (the category of least physical injury to the victim); level 2 sexual assault (with a weapon, threats to use a weapon, or causing bodily harm); and, level 3 aggravated sexual assault (wounds, maims, disfigures or endangers life of victim). Sexual assaults accounted for less than 1 in 10 violent crimes in 1999. The vast majority (97%) of the 23,872 reported incidents of sexual assault were classified by police as level 1 (Table 2).

After reaching a peak in 1993, the rate of total sexual assaults has declined for a sixth consecutive year, including 7% drops in both 1998 and 1999. All three levels of sexual assault were down compared to the previous year: aggravated sexual assault dropped by 4%, sexual assault with a weapon declined 14%, and sexual assaults (level 1) decreased 7%.

¹⁵ For further information, see «Homicide in Canada, 1999» by Orest Federowycz, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002 (to be released in October, 2000).

The Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting survey (UCR2) - 1999

The UCR2 survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. The survey presently collects data from 164 police agencies in seven provinces. These data represent 46% of the national volume of actual *Criminal Code* incidents.

The reader is cautioned that these data are not nationally representative: respondents from Quebec account for 38% of the sample and those from Ontario account for a further 35%. Outside of Quebec, these data are largely an urban sample. Please refer to the methodology section for more information. All calculations exclude records where the variable under study is reported as "unknown", unless otherwise mentioned.

The UCR2 Trend Database

The UCR2 Trend Database represents a sub-set of all respondents who have been providing UCR2 data for the past five years to enable the analysis of trends in the characteristics of accused, victims and, criminal incidents. The 1999 Trend Database contains 106 police services, representing 41% of the national volume of crime.

Rates of sexual assault decreased in 18 of the 24 CMAs. The highest rates of sexual assault were reported in Saskatoon (119 sexual assaults per 100,000 population) and Victoria (97). The lowest rates were in Sherbrooke (36) and Quebec (40).¹⁶

First drop in common assaults since 1994

The most frequently reported category of violent crime is assault. The *Criminal Code* defines several categories of assault: common assault (level 1), assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm (level 2), aggravated assault (level 3), and other assaults (i.e., assault on peace officer, unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharge of firearm with intent and all other assaults).

In 1999, police recorded 221,281 incidents of assault levels 1, 2 and 3 (Table 2). After four years of stability, the rate of assaults dropped by 2% in 1999. This decrease was mainly due to an equivalent decrease in the rate of common assault (-2%), which accounts for just over 8 in 10 assaults, and 6 in 10 reported violent incidents. It is clear that common assault has a large impact on the total rate of violent crime because of its magnitude. This offence includes behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching, and threats by an act or gesture. Aggravated assaults (level 3) fell for the eighth year in a row (-5%), and assaults with weapons (level 2) decreased by 1%.

The rate of assault (levels 1, 2, 3) dropped in 19 of the 24 CMAs. As in previous years, Regina (1,379 assaults per 100,000 population) and Thunder Bay (1,311) reported the highest rates and Sherbrooke (254) and Trois-Rivières (289) reported the lowest.

Data from the UCR2 survey show that, unlike sexual assaults, victims of assault were as likely to be male as female. Females represented the majority of victims of common assault (52%), while males represented two-thirds of victims of assault with a weapon and aggravated assault (66%). Male victims were somewhat younger than females (27 years compared to 29 years).

Firearm robberies declining since 1991

The 28,745 robberies in 1999 accounted for about 1 in 10 violent crimes. The rate of robbery decreased for the third consecutive year in 1999, with a 2% decline. Since peaking in 1991, the total rate of robbery has generally been declining (Figure 5). Rates of robberies with firearms and those with

¹⁶ For further information, see "Children as Victims of Violent Crime" by Robin Fitzgerald in *Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 17, No. 11* and "Sexual Offender", 1997-1998» by Integration and Analysis Program in *Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 19, No.3*.

Fewer firearms and injuries involved in violent crimes

In addition to robbery, the presence of firearms in violent crimes continues to diminish. In 1999, firearms were present in 30% of homicide incidents (from the Homicide Survey), 31% of attempted murders and 18% of robberies (from the UCR aggregate survey), 5% of assaults with a weapon and in 2% of aggravated sexual assaults. Data from the UCR2 Trend Database shows that the presence of these weapons has gradually declined from 5.6% in 1994 to 4.1% in 1999. The presence of knives has also been dropping from 8.0% of all violent incidents in 1996 to 6.4% in 1999. Overall, 1 in 6 violent incidents involved a common weapon (firearm, knife, blunt instrument, other piercing or cutting object) in 1999.

Presence of Most Common Weapons in Violent Incidents*
Data from 106 Police Services, 1995-1999

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
			%		
Firearms	5.6	5.6	4.7	4.3	4.1
Knives	7.8	8.0	7.4	6.9	6.4
Club/Blunt Instrument	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.5	5.3
Other Piercing/Cutting Objects	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3
Total Most Common Weapons	21.1	21.0	19.3	18.1	17.1

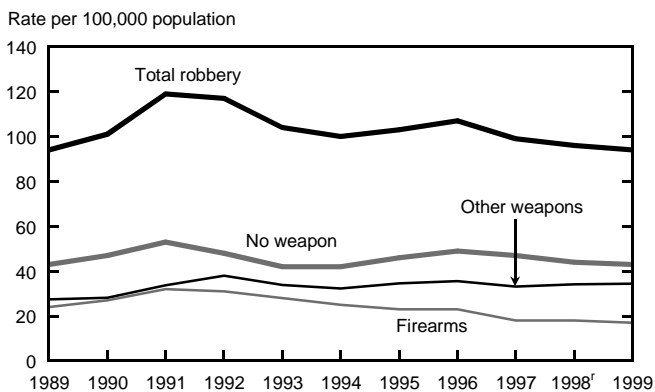
Source: Non-representative sample of 106 police services representing 41% of the total volume of crime in 1999.
* Excludes unknown

The presence of weapons, particularly firearms, in a criminal incident increases the chances of the victim suffering physical injury. The decline in the use of weapons over the past five years has resulted in a corresponding decline in the proportion of victims receiving injuries: from 52% in 1995 to 42% in 1999.¹⁷

¹⁷ For further information, see "Weapons and Violent Crime", by Tracey Leestie, *Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol.17, No.7*.

Figure 5

Robbery incidents, by type, Canada, 1989-1999



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

no weapon have been decreasing, while robberies with other weapons such as knives have been increasing.

Firearms have gradually been replaced with other types of weapons by persons committing robberies. Robberies with a firearm have generally been falling since 1991, including a 5% decrease in 1999. Over these eight years, the rate has dropped by half, from 32 in 1991 to 17 in 1999. In contrast, robberies involving weapons other than firearms (e.g., knives or blunt objects) have doubled over the past 20 years, from a rate of 16 in 1979 to 34 in 1999. This type of robbery was the only one to show an increase in 1999 (+1%). The rate of robbery involving no weapon has remained relatively stable over the last ten years, fluctuating between 40 and 50.

The rate of robbery declined in 13 of the 24 CMAs. Similar to previous years, rates of robbery showed large differences among the CMAs, with the highest being reported in Winnipeg (268) and Vancouver (217), and the lowest in Chicoutimi-Jonquières (27) and Saint John (40).

Compared to other violent crimes, robbery is more likely to involve youths. In 1999, 33% of persons charged with robbery were youths compared with only 16% of persons charged with all violent crimes (Table 6).

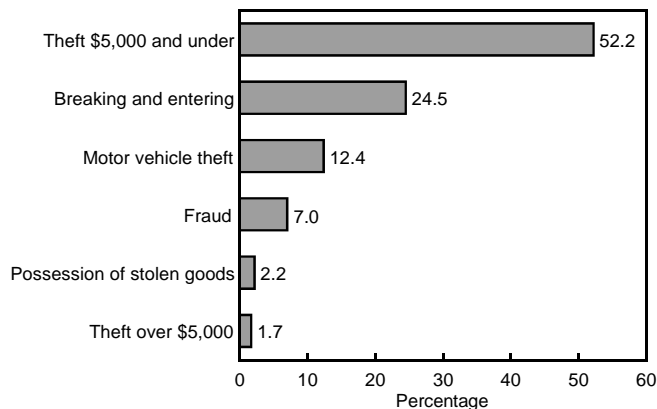
Property Crime

Property crime rate continues to drop

Property crime incidents involve unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the use or threat of violence. Theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods are among the most frequent property crimes (Figure 6). In 1999, there were approximately 1.3 million property crime incidents reported by police. The rate for these crimes has generally been decreasing since 1991, including a 6% drop in 1999. All categories contributed to this decline, particularly the decreases in theft and break and enter. The 1999 rate (4,266) was the lowest recorded by police services since 1974. It was also 19% lower than 10 years ago, 13% lower than 20 years ago, but still 37% higher than 30 years ago.

Figure 6

Property crime, by category, Canada, 1999



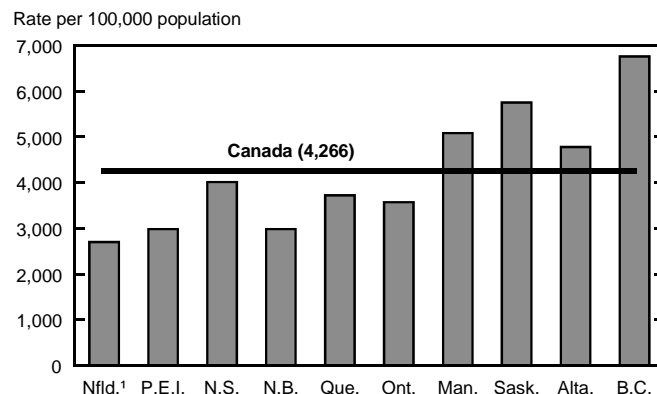
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

With the exception of Prince Edward Island (+9%) and Newfoundland (+2%), rates of property crime dropped in all provinces in 1999. The largest drops were reported in the three most populated provinces: Quebec (-9%), Ontario (-8%), and British Columbia (-6%) (Table 3). Despite decreases in property crimes over the last three years in British Columbia, this province continues to show the highest property crime rate (6,761 incidents per 100,000 population). Newfoundland reported the lowest rate (2,705), followed by New Brunswick (2,984) and Prince Edward Island (2,984) (Figure 7).

Twenty-one of the 24 CMAs reported a decrease in their property crime rate in 1999. Regina reported the highest property crime rate (8,536) followed by Vancouver (7,761), while Québec (3,100) and Saint John (3,133) reported the lowest.

Figure 7

Property crime, Canada and the provinces, 1999



¹ Data for St-John's were not available for 1999 and have been estimated based on the 1998 data.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

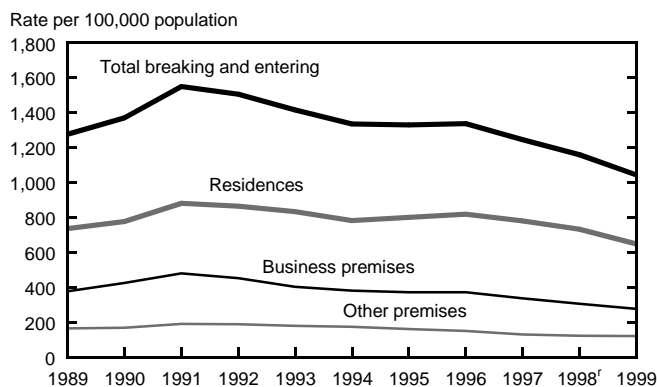
Large drop in break-ins in 1999

Break & Enters (B&Es) have many negative consequences for victims, both financial (loss of property, insurance deductibles, absence from work, purchase of home security devices, etc.) and psychological (feeling of violation of privacy, fear of facing the offender, fear of further break-ins, loss of irreplaceable items). There are also consequences that the victim must endure after the incident: calling the police, reporting to the insurance company, evaluating and replacing stolen goods, and repairing damage to the property (eg. doors, windows). The most serious form of a B&E is a "home invasion" whereby the offender(s) purposely enters a residence, knowing the occupants are home, with the intent to rob or terrorize the occupants. This type of scenario will be examined as part of a Juristat on B&E to be released in the fall of 2000.

In total, there were 318,448 reported incidents of breaking and entering (B&E) in 1999, representing one-quarter of property crimes. The trend of B&E rates has generally been falling since 1991, including a 10% decrease in 1999 (Figure 8). Given the number of B&Es, this magnitude of a decrease has an impact on the total property crime rate as well as the overall crime rate. Almost four in ten persons charged with this offence were youths (Table 6).¹⁸

Figure 8

Breaking and entering incidents, by type, Canada, 1989-1999



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The majority of B&Es in 1999 occurred at private residences (62%). Businesses accounted for a further 26%, with the remaining 12% including other places such as sheds, storage facilities, etc. Decreases in all three categories contributed to the general decline of B&E rates: residential B&Es dropped 11% in 1999; commercial B&Es declined 10%; and, "other" B&Es decreased a slight 1%.

The 1999 rate of residential B&E decreased in all CMAs except London (+21%), Saint John (+8%) and Calgary (+7%). The highest rates of residential B&Es were reported by Regina (1,592) and Saskatoon (1,055), while the lowest rates were in Toronto (371) and Thunder Bay (448).

According to the Insurance Information Centre of Canada¹⁹, the average claim by home-owners and tenants for losses through B&E amounted to \$4,364 in 1998-1999 and the average claim for commercial businesses amounted to \$4,456. In total, property losses associated with B&Es cost the insurance industry about \$366 million in 1998-1999.

Motor vehicle thefts decline for the third year in a row

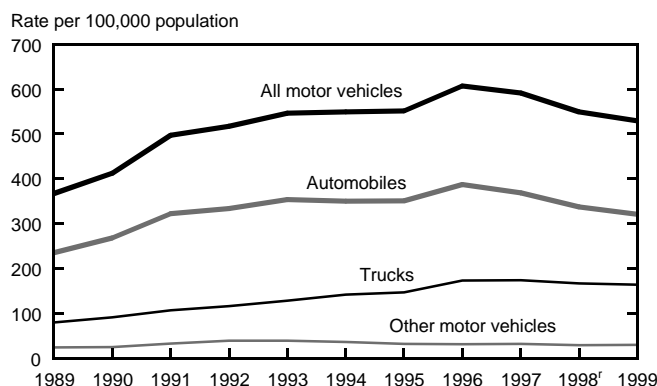
Motor vehicle theft accounted for a little more than 1 in 10 property crimes in 1999 (161,405 incidents). After steady growth for over a decade, the rate of motor vehicle theft decreased for the third consecutive year in 1999 (-4%) (Figure 9). The current rate, however, is still much higher (+44%) than ten years ago.

The most recent data available from the insurance industry shows a decrease in auto theft of 13% from 1997 to 1998²⁰, compared to an 8% decrease as reported by police services for the same period.

In particular, there has been a large increase in the number of "trucks" stolen in recent years, which includes mini-vans and sport-utility vehicles. This is not surprising given that the number of mini-vans and sport-utility vehicles on the road increased 89% between 1994 and 1998, while the total number of vehicles on the road grew by 25% over the same period.²¹ In 1999, the theft of trucks dropped for the second year in a row (-2%), after having increased for the previous 15 years.

Figure 9

Motor vehicle theft, by type of vehicle, Canada, 1989-1999



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

¹⁸ For further information, see "Breaking and Entering in Canada, 1999", by Melanie Kowalski, Juristat, Catalogue 85-002 (to be released in October, 2000).

¹⁹ Members of the Insurance Information Centre of Canada represent about 80% of the total insurance industry. The data provided are based on the financial year from April 1st 1998 to March 31 1999.

²⁰ For more information, see "Facts of the General Insurance Industry in Canada", by the Insurance Council of Canada (published 2000).

²¹ Vehicle Information Centre of Canada (special request, data from 1994 to 1998).

Currently, the most common vehicles stolen for resale are recent-vintage (less than 5 years) sport utility and luxury cars.²²

Along with the decrease recorded at the national level, the rate of motor vehicle thefts declined in 12 of the 24 CMAs. Regina reported the highest rate (1,646), followed by Winnipeg (1,308) and Vancouver (1,051). The lowest rates were reported by Saint John (176) and Windsor (252).

Theft of vehicles and their components cost the Canadian consumers almost \$600 million in 1998 in insurance premiums.²³ Québec continues to have the highest loss cost per vehicle for vehicle theft.²⁴

As with incidents of breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft is described as a crime associated with youth. In 1999, 40% of persons charged with motor vehicle theft were youths aged 12 to 17 years compared to only 21% of persons charged with all other *Criminal Code* offences (Table 6).²⁵

Thefts account for over half of all property crime

In 1999, the 701,573 incidents of theft (excluding motor vehicle thefts and B&Es) accounted for one-third of all *Criminal Code* incidents and over one-half of property crimes. This explains why any large variation in thefts will have a marked influence on the overall crime rate. The 1999 theft rate was 6% lower than the previous year and has generally been declining since 1991, similar to the overall trend in property crime.

Of all thefts reported to police, 40% were thefts from motor vehicles, 12% were shoplifting, 9% were bicycle thefts, and 39% were "other" types of theft. Decreases were reported for all these types of theft in 1999. Relative to other offences, a high proportion of persons charged with "theft \$5,000 and under" were female (30%) (Table 6), most of whom were charged with shoplifting.

Drop in cheque frauds leading to a decrease of fraud in general

The rate of frauds declined for the eighth year in a row, with a 5% drop in 1999, primarily due to a decrease in the rate of cheque fraud. The rate of cheque fraud has been consistently decreasing since 1986 when it represented 60% of all frauds, compared to just 33% in 1999. Police statistics show that credit card frauds have grown over the last few years, including a 2% increase in 1999.

In the UCR survey, "other" frauds include telemarketing fraud, breach of trust, false representation, forgery, falsification or illegal destruction of documents, insurance fraud, as well as fraud committed through technology such as banking card and cellular phone frauds.²⁶ Although this category of "other frauds" has declined for the previous four years, it still comprised the largest category of frauds reported by police agencies (46%) in 1999.²⁷

Other *Criminal Code* Incidents

The 765,791 *Criminal Code* crimes that are not in the violent or property crime categories are reported under the category "Other *Criminal Code*". These crimes account for 3 in 10

Telemarketing fraud

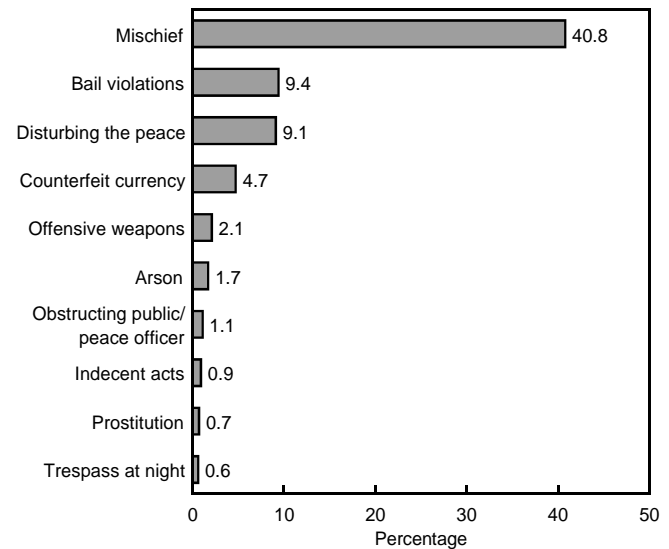
Telemarketing refers to soliciting someone by phone to obtain charitable donations or to advertise or sell products or services. The Internet has become an efficient alternative method to reach potential consumers and enterprises to sell products. Although the large majority of these transactions are legitimate, this venue of telemarketing has added a new form of fraud. Fraudulent businesses use these methods to illegally obtain money under false representation of products or by offering non-existent prices, including travel, savings bonds, financial investments, and other types of goods and services.

"PhoneBusters" is a national group co-ordinated by the Ontario Provincial Police to investigate telemarketing frauds and prevent losses by victims, which totalled a minimum of \$3.5 million in 1999. According to "PhoneBusters", the number of victims and dollars lost to fraudulent telemarketing has declined continually from 1995 to 1999. Persons aged 60 and over are the most vulnerable, comprising three-quarters of all fraudulent telemarketing victims.

Criminal Code incidents and include such crimes as mischief, weapons offences, prostitution, arson, counterfeiting, and disturbing the peace (Figure 10). These offences are mainly against justice administration, "quality of life" (disturbing the peace) and public or private property (mischief).

Figure 10

Selected "other" *Criminal Code* offences, by category, Canada, 1999



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ See footnote 19.

²⁴ See footnote 19.

²⁵ For more information, see "Motor Vehicle Theft in Canada, 1996", by Julie Sauvé, *Juristat*, Vol. 18, No. 1.

²⁶ The revised Incident-based uniform crime reporting survey (UCR2.1) breaks down the type of fraud into 7 categories.

²⁷ For further information, see "The Changing Nature of Fraud", by Derek Janhevich, *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 18, No. 4.

Offensive weapons crimes increase

The new *Firearms Act*, adopted by Parliament in 1995, began its gradual introduction in 1998. To better respond to information needs of this new law, four new categories of criminal offences related to offensive weapons have been created in the UCR survey to replace the old ones: illegal use of a firearm or replica; illegal possession of a weapon; weapon importation, exportation and trafficking; and, a category for all other offences related to weapons. This latter category includes offences related to non-secure storage, documentation and administration of firearms, as well as all other *Criminal Code* firearm and other offensive weapons.²⁸

The 16,043 offensive weapons crimes reported by police in 1999 accounted for less than 1% of *Criminal Code* incidents. The categories of “other” weapons offences and “illegal possession” of weapons accounted for the great majority (87%) of these offences, followed by illegal firearms usage (12%), and importation/exportation/trafficking offences (1%). Despite the creation of the four new statistical categories of weapons offences, the total number of offences remains comparable. In 1999, the rate of weapons offences declined 5%.

The rate of mischief offences continues to decline

The 312,563 mischief incidents (including vandalism) reported by police accounted for 13% of total *Criminal Code* crimes and over 2 in 5 of “other” *Criminal Code* incidents (Table 2). The general decline in the rate of mischief incidents continued in 1999 with a 5% drop.

Data from the UCR2 survey show that motor vehicles were the most common targets of mischief (62%). Consistent with previous years, youths aged 12 to 17 years comprised one-third of persons charged with this offence in 1999 (Table 6).

Criminal Code Traffic Incidents

Police reported 136,991 incidents involving *Criminal Code* traffic crimes in 1999, resulting in a rate 4% below that of 1998. Impaired driving accounted for 63% of these incidents in 1999, failure to stop and/or remain at the scene of an accident accounted for 27%, and dangerous driving and driving while prohibited comprised the remaining 10%.

Impaired driving stable for the second consecutive year

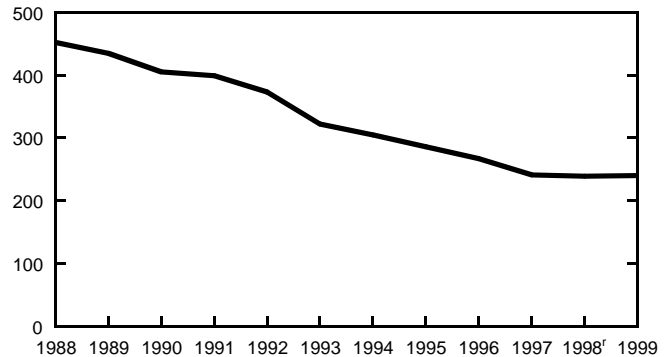
Impaired driving offences include impaired operation of a motor vehicle, boat or aircraft causing death or bodily harm; driving with over 80 mg. of alcohol per 100 ml. of blood; and, failing to provide a breath and/or blood sample when requested by a police officer. In 1999, police charged 73,148 persons with impaired driving, a very slight increase in the rate compared to 1998 (+0.3%).²⁹ This represented the second year of stability after years of decline (Figure 11).

While the number of road-side checks by police has an influence on the number of persons charged with impaired driving, it is not sufficient on its own to explain the general decline observed since 1983. Part of the decline could be attributed to a growing tendency by police to issue a road-

Figure 11



Rate per 100,000 population



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

side suspension to drivers having a blood-alcohol reading slightly above the legal limit, rather than charging.³⁰ Another factor that has, no doubt, contributed to the decline in impaired driving is the changing attitudes of drivers and public in general through numerous programs sensitizing drivers to the dangers of drinking and driving and, more severe penalties for drinking and driving from the criminal justice system.³¹

Drugs

All major drug categories increased

In 1999, a total of 79,871 incidents related to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) were reported by Canadian police services. It should be noted that police-reported drug statistics reflect more the level of police enforcement than the actual demand on the street for illegal drugs.

Fuelled by a large increase in cannabis related offences (+16%), the rate of drug offences increased 12% in 1999 (Table 2). This latest rise in drug incidents continues the upward trend which began in 1994 (Figure 12). Cannabis offences accounted for three-quarters of all drug-related incidents reported in 1999, of which 66% were for possession, 17% for trafficking, 15% for cultivation, and 2% for importation. It should be noted that in 10% of the incidents where possession of cannabis was the most serious offence reported by police, other offences were also present in these incidents, the most common of which were possession of other illegal drugs (excluding heroin and cocaine), breach of probation, bail violation and obstructing a peace-public officer.

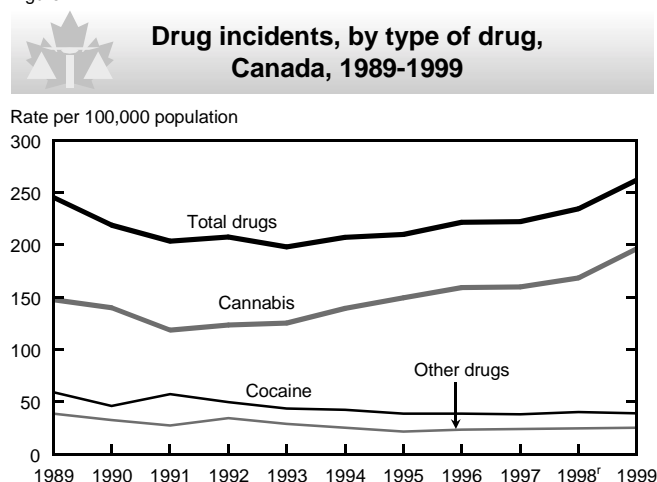
²⁸ Refer to the *Criminal Code of Canada* and the *Firearms Act* for exact definitions and conditions.

²⁹ Note that impaired driving numbers in Table 2 refer to the “actual” number of incidents, while the analyses in this section uses “persons charged” with impaired driving offences.

³⁰ For further information, see “Impaired Driving in Canada, 1998”, by Julie Sauvé in *Juristat*, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 19, No. 11.

³¹ *Ibid.*

Figure 12



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

The illegal cultivation of cannabis, particularly in cases where it is being grown without landowners' consent, has recently become an important issue in the eyes of the public. This type of offence has also seen an increase over the past decade: from a rate of 5 incidents per 100,000 population in 1989 to 29 in 1999.

The rate of cocaine offences decreased by 3% and heroin offences dropped by 1%. The rate for all other types of drugs increased (+4%) for the third consecutive year.³²

The proportion of youths accused of drug offences decreases with the seriousness of the type of drug offence: 19% of persons charged with possession of cannabis were youths, compared to only 6% of persons charged with trafficking of cocaine.³³

Youth Crime

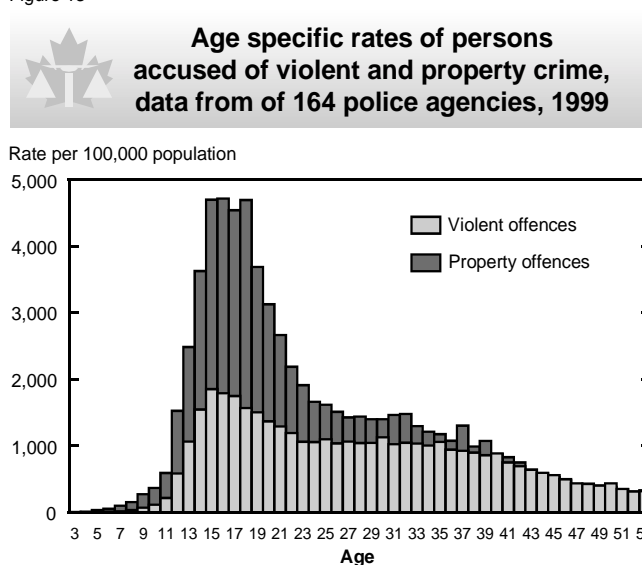
An analysis of age-specific crime rates³⁴ indicates that 14 to 19 year-olds are the highest risk group for committing both property and violent offences (Figure 13). However, this age group represents a greater proportion (33%) of property crime than violent crime (20%). This difference is also illustrated by a lower median age for persons accused of property crimes (23 years) than for those accused of violent crimes (29 years).

Youth crime, particularly violent crime, remains in the forefront of many Canadians. To respond to the perceived dissatisfaction by many Canadians towards the *Young Offenders Act* introduced in 1984, the federal government has proposed new legislation called the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA). In brief, the proposed legislation proposes to increase the availability of alternative measures for young offenders who commit minor offences, and to increase the number of violent offences transferred to adult court.

Measuring youth crime

Since the enactment of the YOA, a growing number of youth have been diverted from the formal justice system by some

Figure 13



Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) survey, CCJS. Non-representative sample of 164 police services representing 46% of the national volume of crime.

form of diversion rather than the laying of a charge. In effect, this law prescribes certain conditions for admissibility to an alternative measures (AM) program, with the objective of avoiding court proceedings for young persons. In addition, when dealing with first-time offenders involved in minor incidents, police may choose to deal with a youth informally by giving them a warning or discussing the incident with the youth's parents.

Depending on the province, AM can be used at the pre- or post-charge stage. Consequently, the number of youths charged by police is influenced by the approach used by each police service and each province.³⁵ It is clear that the youths charged rate is not a perfect indicator of youth crime, particularly with respect to measuring relatively minor offences committed by first time offenders. An analysis of youths "not charged" will follow the analysis of youths charged.

All categories of youth crime declined in 1999

The rate of youths aged 12 to 17 charged with criminal offences has been declining since 1992, including a 7% drop in 1999. This decline was evident in all offence categories: the rate of youths charged with property offences declined 11%, violent crime dropped 5%, and other *Criminal Code* offences dropped 3% (Table 7). In total, youths were charged with *Criminal Code* offences at a rate of 4,072 per 100,000 youths, compared to 5,168 a decade ago (a drop of 21%). Table 8 shows youth crime by province/territory.

³² For further information, see "Illicit Drugs and Crime", by Sylvain Tremblay in *Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 19, No. 1*.

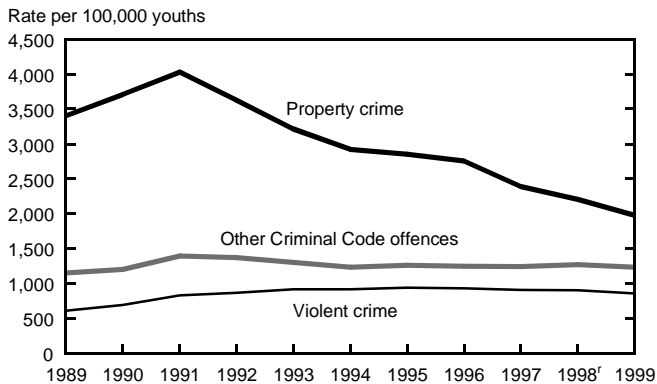
³³ These proportions exclude youth under 12 who can not officially be charged by the police.

³⁴ Age-specific crime rates are calculated using the age distribution of accused from UCR2 based on the age of population for all census sub-divisions pertaining to UCR2 survey respondents.

³⁵ For further information, refer to "Youth Profile in Canada, 1997", Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Catalogue 85-544, 1998.

Figure 14

Rate of youths charged, by type of offence, Canada, 1989-1999



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Youth crime is generally more property-oriented than crimes committed by adults

Property crimes accounted for half (49%) of youth crime, compared to only 35% of all adults charged. A further 21% of youths were charged with violent crime, compared to 30% of adults. The remaining youths were charged with other *Criminal Code* offences, such as mischief and offences against the administration of justice (e.g.: bail violations or escapes from custody). This distribution has changed from a decade ago when 66% of youths were charged with property crimes and 12% with violent crimes. Increases in youths charged with common assault (level 1) and decreases in charges for theft and breaking & entering account for much of this shift.

Rate of youths charged with violent crime declining

In 1999, the rate of youths charged with violent crime declined sharply (-5%), by far the largest year-over-year decline since

Crime Distribution for Youths and Adults Accused by Police Services, Selected Offences, Canada, 1999		
	Youths Accused	Adults Accused
	%	
Total violent	21	30
Assaults (level 1,2 & 3)	15	23
Robbery	3	2
Total property	49	35
Theft \$5,000 and under & theft over \$5,000	22	16
Breaking and entering	14	6
Theft motor vehicle	6	2
Total other Criminal Code	30	35
Mischief	7	4
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE*	100	100

* Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS

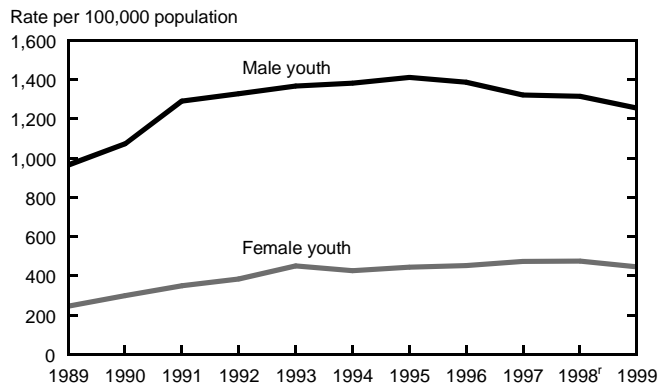
the introduction of the YOA. Despite drops for four straight years, the youth violent crime rate is still much higher than 10 years ago (+40%) (Figure 14).

All categories of youth violent crime decreased in 1999: homicide (-20%), robbery (-11%), assault (-4%), and sexual assault (-1%). A total of 45 youths aged 12 to 17 years stood charged with homicide, 9 fewer than in 1998. Between 1989 and 1999, the number of youths charged with homicide ranged from 36 in 1993 to a high of 68 in 1995, an average of 51 youths per year.³⁶

In recent years, concern has been raised about increasing violence among females, particularly young females. Over the last decade, the increase in the rate of female youths charged with violent crimes (+81%) was three times more than for male youths (+30%) (Figure 15). In 1999, however, violent crime dropped for both male youths (-5%) and for female youths (-6%). The rate of female youths charged with violent crime (445 per 100,000 population) is still one-third that of male youth (1,254).

Figure 15

Youth violent charge rates, by gender, Canada, 1989-1999



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Rate of youths charged with property crimes continues to fall. The rate of youths charged with property crimes dropped for the eighth straight year in 1999 (-11%). The rate of youths charged dropped for all property offences including breaking and entering (-16%), motor vehicle theft (-11%) and other theft (-10%).

The rate of youths “not charged” also declining

As mentioned previously, using youths “charged” is not a perfect indicator of youth crime. It is important to look at youth involvement in crime, other than simply those charged by police. It is possible that the decline in the number of youths charged over the past few years could be explained by a corresponding increase in the number of youth dealt with by other means such as alternative measures or warnings.

³⁶ For further information, see “Youth Violent Crime in Canada” by Josée Savoie in Juristat, Catalogue 85-002, Vol. 19, No. 13.

According to UCR2 scoring rules, police are required to categorize why a case was cleared without laying formal charges: police discretion (includes warnings and cautions) (41% of all those “not charged”); referral to alternative measures programs (23%); complainant refuses to press charges (23%); reasons beyond the control of the police department (eg. policies) (7%); and, accused has other criminal charges (6%).

Although the UCR survey distinguishes between youths charged and “not charged” by the police, the reader should be cautioned that the data on youths “not charged” is under-reported. Given that less serious offences tend to be committed by youths, these offences are most susceptible to not being formally documented and declared by the police. As well, certain police services do not collect any information on youths “not charged”.

Data provided by police show that the rate of youths “not charged” also dropped in 1999 (-7%). Similar to the case for youths charged, all major categories of youths “not charged” decreased: violent crime (-4%), property crime (-11%), and other *Criminal Code* offences (-3%). In total, the rate of youths “not charged” was more than 2,400 per 100,000 youths, corresponding to a ratio of 2 youths “not charged” for every 3 youths charged. These figures appear to substantiate the drops in youth crime as measured by the number of youths charged by police.

Methodology

The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The aggregate UCR survey, which became operational in 1962, collects crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies in Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation.

Currently, there are two levels of detail collected by the UCR survey:

1. Aggregate UCR Survey

The aggregate-based UCR survey records the number of incidents reported to the police. It includes the number of reported offences, actual offences, offences cleared by charge or cleared otherwise, persons charged (by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown) and those not charged. It does not include victim characteristics. Unless otherwise mentioned, all analysis in this report is based on aggregate survey counts.

The aggregate UCR survey classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident, (generally the offence that carries the longest maximum sentence under the *Criminal*

Code of Canada). In categorizing incidents, violent offences always take precedence over non-violent offences. As a result, less serious offences are under-represented by the UCR survey.

The aggregate UCR survey scores violent incidents (except robbery) differently from other types of crime. For violent crime, a separate incident is recorded for each victim (i.e. if one person assaults three people, then three incidents are recorded; but if three people assault one person, only one incident is recorded). Robbery, however, is counted as if it were a non-violent crime in order to avoid inflating the number of victims (e.g. for a bank robbery, counting everyone present in the bank would result in an over-counting of robbery incidents). For non-violent crimes, one incident (categorized according to the *most serious offence*) is counted for every distinct or separate occurrence.

2. Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2)

The incident-based uniform crime reporting survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and incidents. In 1999, detailed data were collected from 164 services in 7 provinces through the UCR2 survey. These data represent 46% of the national volume of reported actual *Criminal Code* crimes. The incidents contained in the 1999 database were distributed as follows: 38% from Quebec, 35% from Ontario, 12% from Alberta, 7% from British Columbia, 6% from Saskatchewan, 1% from New Brunswick, and 1% from Newfoundland. Other than Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not geographically representative at the national level. Continuity with the UCR aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

The UCR2 Trend Database contains historical data which permits the analysis of trends in the characteristics of the incidents, accused and victims, such as weapon use and victim/accused relationships. This file includes 106 police services who have reported to the UCR2 survey constantly since 1995. These respondents accounted for 41% of the national volume of crime in 1999. This list of respondents will remain virtually unchanged until such time as large police services such as the RCMP and OPP have been providing at least 5 years of data to the UCR2 survey, at which point they will become part of this trend database.

In this report, the crime rate excludes *Criminal Code* traffic violations as these data have proven to be volatile over time, as a result of changes in police procedures that allow for some traffic violations to be scored under either a provincial statute or the *Criminal Code* (e.g. failure to stop or remain at an accident). Other federal statutes such as drug offences are also excluded.

Table 1


Rates of Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1962 - 1999¹

	Total Criminal Code ²		Violent crime		Property crime		Other Criminal Code	
	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*	Rate	% Change*
		%		%		%		%
1999	7,733	-5.0	955	-2.4	4,266	-6.4	2,512	-3.5
1998 [†]	8,137	-3.7	979	-1.1	4,556	-6.4	2,602	0.3
1997	8,453	-5.2	990	-1.0	4,867	-7.5	2,596	-2.1
1996	8,914	-0.9	1,000	-0.7	5,264	-0.4	2,650	-1.9
1995	8,993	-1.3	1,007	-3.7	5,283	0.6	2,702	-4.1
1994	9,114	-4.4	1,046	-3.2	5,250	-5.8	2,817	-2.2
1993	9,531	-5.0	1,081	-0.3	5,571	-5.6	2,879	-5.6
1992	10,036	-3.0	1,084	2.3	5,902	-4.2	3,051	-2.3
1991	10,342	9.0	1,059	8.9	6,160	9.8	3,122	7.7
1990	9,484	6.7	973	6.8	5,611	6.1	2,900	7.8
1989	8,891	-0.3	911	5.0	5,289	-2.8	2,691	3.0
1988	8,919	-0.4	868	4.6	5,438	-2.1	2,612	1.5
1987	8,956	2.6	829	5.6	5,552	0.0	2,575	7.6
1986	8,727	3.7	785	6.9	5,550	1.8	2,392	7.4
1985	8,413	0.3	735	4.8	5,451	-0.9	2,227	1.9
1984	8,387	-1.0	701	3.1	5,501	-1.9	2,185	0.1
1983	8,470	-3.5	679	1.2	5,608	-4.0	2,182	-3.5
1982	8,773	0.4	671	2.7	5,840	1.4	2,262	-2.6
1981	8,736	4.7	654	2.8	5,759	5.8	2,322	2.6
1980	8,343	8.8	636	4.3	5,444	11.0	2,263	5.1
1979	7,666	7.2	610	5.1	4,903	7.1	2,153	7.9
1978	7,154	2.6	580	1.4	4,579	2.5	1,995	3.2
1977	6,971	-0.2	572	-2.0	4,466	-1.5	1,933	3.5
1976	6,984	1.9	584	-0.2	4,533	0.8	1,867	5.6
1975	6,852	7.3	585	5.9	4,498	8.4	1,769	5.1
1974	6,387	10.6	553	5.6	4,151	12.1	1,684	8.9
1973	5,773	7.8	524	5.3	3,704	1.9	1,546	26.3
1972	5,355	0.8	497	1.0	3,634	-0.4	1,224	4.6
1971	5,311	1.9	492	2.4	3,649	3.8	1,170	-3.9
1970	5,212	10.0	481	6.2	3,515	12.6	1,217	4.6
1969	4,737	9.3	453	7.1	3,120	10.4	1,164	7.1
1968	4,336	12.6	423	11.0	2,826	13.8	1,087	10.3
1967	3,850	9.6	381	9.9	2,484	10.0	985	8.7
1966	3,511	9.8	347	15.9	2,258	8.0	907	12.0
1965	3,199	-1.4	299	5.4	2,091	-2.6	809	-0.7
1964	3,245	7.4	284	13.8	2,146	4.9	815	12.3
1963	3,022	9.0	249	13.0	2,047	8.2	726	10.1
1962	2,771	...	221	...	1,891	...	659	...

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of June 1st: intercensal estimates from 1962 to 1970, without adjustment for net census undercoverage. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates from 1971 to 1990, final intercensal estimates from 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996, updated postcensal estimates from 1997 to 1999.

² Excluding traffic offences.

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... Figures not applicable

[†] Revised figures

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 2


Federal Statute Incidents Reported to Police, by Most Serious Offence, Canada, 1995-1999¹

	1995		1996		1997		1998 ^r		1999		% change in rate* 1998-1999
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
Population	29,353,854		29,671,892		29,987,214		30,246,891		30,491,294		
Homicide	588	2.0	635	2.1	586	2.0	558	1.8	536	1.8	-4.7
Attempted murder	939	3.2	878	3.0	865	2.9	745	2.5	685	2.2	-8.8
Assaults - Total (levels 1, 2, 3)	217,618	741	219,919	741	222,397	742	223,926	740	221,281	726	-2.0
Level 1	178,934	610	181,545	612	183,087	611	183,999	608	181,326	595	-2.2
Level 2-Weapon	35,921	122	35,626	120	36,665	122	37,302	123	37,432	123	-0.5
Level 3-Aggravated	2,763	9.4	2,748	9.3	2,645	8.8	2,625	8.7	2,523	8.3	-4.7
Other assaults	13,462	46	12,171	41	11,807	39	12,147	40	12,184	40	-0.5
Sexual assaults - Total (levels 1, 2, 3)	28,234	96	27,026	91	27,013	90	25,553	84	23,872	78	-7.3
Level 1	27,278	93	26,076	88	26,142	87	24,805	82	23,200	76	-7.2
Level 2-Weapon	659	2.2	653	2.2	602	2.0	529	1.7	459	1.5	-13.9
Level 3-Aggravated	297	1.0	297	1.0	269	0.9	219	0.7	213	0.7	-3.5
Other sexual offences	3,494	12	3,343	11	3,650	12	3,445	11	3,301	11	-4.9
Abduction	1,035	3.5	977	3.3	985	3.3	829	2.7	726	2.4	-13.1
Robbery - Total	30,332	103	31,797	107	29,587	99	28,963	96	28,745	94	-1.5
Firearms	6,692	23	6,737	23	5,486	18	5,324	18	5,124	17	-4.5
Other Weapons	10,127	34	10,543	36	9,945	33	10,326	34	10,492	34	0.8
No Weapons	13,513	46	14,517	49	14,156	47	13,313	44	13,129	43	-2.2
Violent crime - Total	295,702	1,007	296,746	1,000	296,890	990	296,166	979	291,330	955	-2.4
Break & enter - Total	390,784	1,331	397,057	1,338	373,316	1,245	350,774	1,160	318,448	1,044	-9.9
Business	108,749	370	110,196	371	100,696	336	92,590	306	83,950	275	-10.1
Residential	235,129	801	242,639	818	233,724	779	221,366	732	197,781	649	-11.4
Other	46,906	160	44,222	149	38,896	130	36,818	122	36,717	120	-1.1
Motor vehicle theft	161,696	551	180,123	607	177,130	591	165,920	549	161,405	529	-3.5
Theft over \$5,000	42,080	143	27,075	91	24,035	80	23,600	78	22,478	74	-5.5
Theft \$5,000 and under	820,908	2,797	823,732	2,776	758,292	2,529	713,632	2,359	679,095	2,227	-5.6
Possession of stolen goods	31,293	107	31,772	107	29,799	99	29,156	96	28,656	94	-2.5
Fraud	103,964	354	102,052	344	96,964	323	94,819	313	90,568	297	-5.2
Property crime - Total	1,550,725	5,283	1,561,811	5,264	1,459,536	4,867	1,377,901	4,556	1,300,650	4,266	-6.4
Mischief	380,041	1,295	365,830	1,233	341,854	1,140	326,918	1,081	312,563	1,025	-5.2
Counterfeiting currency	20,375	69	20,378	69	33,272	111	39,830	132	36,168	119	-9.9
Bail violation	66,939	228	68,949	232	70,367	235	73,034	241	72,223	237	-1.9
Disturbing the peace	51,401	175	54,563	184	57,704	192	65,513	217	69,982	230	6.0
Offensive weapons	17,571	60	16,400	55	16,103	54	16,766	55	16,043	53	-5.1
Prostitution	7,170	24	6,397	22	5,828	19	5,969	20	5,251	17	-12.7
Arson	13,156	45	12,830	43	12,693	42	12,947	43	12,763	42	-2.2
Other	236,574	806	240,989	812	240,519	802	246,112	814	240,798	790	-2.9
Other Criminal Code - Total	793,227	2,702	786,336	2,650	778,340	2,596	787,089	2,602	765,791	2,512	-3.5
CRIMINAL CODE WITHOUT TRAFFIC - TOTAL	2,639,654	8,993	2,644,893	8,914	2,534,766	8,453	2,461,156	8,137	2,357,771	7,733	-5.0
Impaired driving - Total ²	102,285	348	96,280	324	90,145	301	87,660	290	85,984	282	-2.7
Fail to stop/remain	54,180	185	49,896	168	49,781	166	39,087	129	37,484	123	-4.9
Other	17,419	59	16,286	55	15,302	51	14,406	48	13,523	44	-6.9
Criminal Code Traffic - Total	173,884	592	162,462	548	155,228	518	141,153	467	136,991	449	-3.7
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL	2,813,538	9,585	2,807,355	9,461	2,689,994	8,970	2,602,309	8,604	2,494,762	8,182	-4.9
DRUGS	61,613	210	65,729	222	66,593	222	70,922	234	79,871	262	11.7
Cannabis	43,845	149	47,234	159	47,933	160	50,917	168	59,788	196	16.5
Cocaine	11,369	39	11,478	39	11,468	38	12,183	40	11,930	39	-2.9
Heroin	1,236	4.2	1,287	4.3	1,235	4.1	1,323	4.4	1,321	4.3	-1.0
Other drugs	5,163	18	5,730	19	5,957	20	6,509	22	6,832	22	4.1
OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES	36,121	123	34,274	116	35,204	117	35,816	118	38,568	126	6.8
TOTAL FEDERAL STATUTES	2,911,272	9,918	2,907,358	9,798	2,791,791	9,310	2,709,047	8,956	2,613,201	8,570	-4.3

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final intercensal estimates for 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996, updated postcensal estimates from 1997 to 1999.

² Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg, failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

^r Revised figures

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 3



Selected Criminal Code Incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1999¹

	Nfld. ²	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B. ³	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T. ⁴	Nvt. ⁴	Canada
Population, 1999	541,000	137,980	939,791	754,969	7,345,390	11,513,808	1,143,509	1,027,780	2,964,689	4,023,100	30,633	41,606	27,039	30,491,294
Homicide														
number	2	1	13	9	136	161	26	13	61	110	1	1	2	536
rate	0.4	0.7	1.4	1.2	1.9	1.4	2.3	1.3	2.1	2.7	3.3	2.4	7.4	1.8
% change in rate*	-71.2	-0.7	-46.0	79.6	-1.0	2.0	-21.6	-60.7	-6.5	21.5	-65.6	-1.3	-51.1	-4.7
Sexual Assault (1,2,3)														
number	644	105	844	775	3,434	8,270	1,307	1,375	2,715	3,907	90	202	204	23,872
rate	119	76	90	103	47	72	114	134	92	97	294	486	754	78
% change in rate*	6.4	-33.2	-11.6	-13.7	6.1	-9.3	1.1	-9.3	-9.5	-11.6	-13.3	-7.7	-18.6	-7.3
Assault (1,2,3)														
number	4,084	772	7,495	5,768	32,795	75,439	13,744	12,938	24,339	40,318	807	1,667	1,115	221,281
rate	755	560	798	764	446	655	1,202	1,259	821	1,002	2,634	4,007	4,124	726
% change in rate*	4.7	1.5	2.7	5.5	3.0	-4.3	-2.9	2.1	-2.5	-4.6	12.9	-2.8	-7.1	-2.0
Robbery														
number	64	19	425	162	8,287	8,720	1,987	887	2,542	5,611	15	19	7	28,745
rate	12	14	45	21	113	76	174	86	86	139	49	46	26	94
% change in rate*	-12.8	-21.4	-7.6	-1.4	3.0	-5.8	8.6	-8.7	-2.7	-1.6	28.9	-14.7	-54.4	-1.5
Violent crime - Total														
number	5,004	945	9,269	7,218	48,934	98,118	17,978	16,334	31,462	51,637	972	2,042	1,417	291,330
rate	925	685	986	956	666	852	1,572	1,589	1,061	1,284	3,173	4,908	5,241	955
% change in rate*	4.0	-5.7	0.8	2.9	3.4	-4.8	-2.2	-0.8	-3.3	-4.8	9.1	-2.9	-11.1	-2.4
Breaking & Entering														
number	4,328	717	9,139	5,475	84,972	92,485	15,209	16,869	29,287	58,026	560	882	499	318,448
rate	800	520	972	725	1,157	803	1,330	1,641	988	1,442	1,828	2,120	1,845	1,044
% change in rate*	-2.6	1.7	-0.2	-7.2	-13.6	-9.5	-5.7	-5.4	-4.2	-11.9	-5.0	-13.9	-22.8	-9.9
Motor Vehicle Theft														
number	618	191	2,831	1,631	43,068	50,065	10,723	7,078	14,847	29,731	228	225	169	161,405
rate	114	138	301	216	586	435	938	689	501	739	744	541	625	529
% change in rate*	-3.3	4.8	0.1	14.5	-9.1	-1.7	1.3	-3.0	-6.2	0.8	10.4	-3.8	3.2	-3.5
Other Theft														
number	7,770	2,655	22,017	11,758	124,329	227,005	28,697	28,342	79,943	166,296	1,198	1,123	440	701,573
rate	1,436	1,924	2,343	1,557	1,693	1,972	2,510	2,758	2,697	4,134	3,911	2,699	1,627	2,301
% change in rate*	3.6	13.6	-1.3	-1.1	-7.5	-8.3	3.4	-6.0	-2.4	-4.7	0.9	-24.0	-7.7	-5.6
Property crime - Total														
number	14,634	4,118	37,711	22,531	273,403	411,456	58,136	59,140	141,736	272,021	2,212	2,376	1,176	1,300,650
rate	2,705	2,984	4,013	2,984	3,722	3,574	5,084	5,754	4,781	6,761	7,221	5,711	4,349	4,266
% change in rate*	1.7	9.1	-1.1	-1.3	-8.9	-7.6	-1.6	-5.2	-3.5	-6.1	3.2	-18.6	-12.7	-6.4
Offensive weapons														
number	168	29	469	386	1,136	6,567	1,164	853	1,666	3,438	59	67	41	16,043
rate	31	21	50	51	15	57	102	83	56	85	193	161	152	53
% change in rate*	34.4	-22.2	-4.5	63.2	13.1	-8.6	8.3	-1.1	-16.8	-7.6	48.4	-9.4	-40.2	-5.1
Mischief														
number	4,912	1,784	12,445	7,544	51,194	97,269	22,825	16,833	37,999	55,173	803	2,731	1,051	312,563
rate	908	1,293	1,324	999	697	845	1,996	1,638	1,282	1,371	2,621	6,564	3,887	1,025
% change in rate*	4.9	25.3	3.8	4.7	-6.7	-9.7	6.5	-3.5	-4.2	-6.1	5.5	7.5	-13.7	-5.2
Other Criminal Code - Total														
number	12,395	4,399	31,093	22,121	113,535	239,697	44,801	49,452	95,076	142,457	2,887	5,584	2,294	765,791
rate	2,291	3,188	3,309	2,930	1,546	2,082	3,918	4,812	3,207	3,541	9,424	13,421	8,484	2,512
% change in rate*	2.3	14.4	7.0	4.0	-9.6	-8.2	1.7	0.3	4.7	-2.5	15.6	3.4	-11.5	-3.5
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - without traffic offences														
number	32,033	9,462	78,073	51,870	435,872	749,271	120,915	124,926	268,274	466,115	6,071	10,002	4,887	2,357,771
rate	5,921	6,858	8,307	6,870	5,934	6,508	10,574	12,155	9,049	11,586	19,818	24,040	18,074	7,733
% change in rate*	2.3	9.7	2.2	1.5	-7.8	-7.4	-0.5	-2.5	-0.7	-4.9	9.7	-4.0	-11.7	-5.0

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 1998 and 1999.

² Royal Newfoundland constabulary St. John's jurisdiction was unable to contribute 1999 crime statistics due to a new Police Information and Management System. As such, 1999 data have been substituted with 1998 counts.

³ In 1998, Codiac Regional was unable to provide accurate crime statistics due to a change in police information systems. As such, 1998 data have been substituted with 1999 counts.

⁴ Data for 1998 for the Northwest Territories (without Nunavut) and Nunavut have been estimated in order to allow for comparisons with 1999.

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... Figures not appropriate or applicable

- Nil or zero

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 4

	Toronto	Montréal	Vancouver	Calgary	Edmonton	Ottawa ²	Québec	Winnipeg	Hamilton
Population 1999	4,680,250	3,438,532	2,016,643	933,748	929,145	809,034	688,085	677,625	665,169
Homicide									
number	60	70	57	13	20	12	10	15	16
rate	1.3	2.0	2.8	1.4	2.2	1.5	1.5	2.2	2.4
% change in rate*	-22.6	7.2	25.6	-33.8	-10.5	...	-33.5	-16.6	...
Sexual assault (1,2,3)									
number	2,547	1,615	1,202	614	710	455	275	479	468
rate	54	47	60	66	76	56	40	71	70
% change in rate*	-3.6	8.9	-19.6	-3.4	-14.5	-18.9	-8.2	0.5	-22.8
Assault (1,2,3)									
number	28,180	18,726	16,356	5,949	5,473	4,369	2,193	5,581	5,306
rate	602	545	811	637	589	540	319	824	798
% change in rate*	-3.5	2.2	-3.6	-0.3	-16.4	-16.0	3.1	-7.7	-5.3
Robbery									
number	5,388	6,667	4,379	1,016	1,270	848	468	1,814	558
rate	115	194	217	109	137	105	68	268	84
% change in rate*	-6.9	1.7	0.8	2.0	-4.5	-18.4	5.2	8.4	23.4
Violent crime - Total									
number	37,669	29,131	22,594	7,918	8,073	5,920	3,200	8,350	6,531
rate	805	847	1,120	848	869	732	465	1,232	982
% change in rate*	-3.9	2.5	-4.1	-0.7	-13.1	-16.1	1.8	-4.9	-4.3
Break & enter									
number	28,637	45,127	32,282	9,464	9,456	7,144	6,078	8,372	6,072
rate	612	1,312	1,601	1,014	1,018	883	883	1,235	913
% change in rate*	-7.9	-11.1	-14.6	-7.0	-6.1	-11.9	-22.7	-10.8	-1.8
Motor vehicle theft									
number	18,696	28,772	21,194	6,201	4,317	5,259	2,032	8,865	5,255
rate	399	837	1,051	664	465	650	295	1,308	790
% change in rate*	-2.0	-8.9	3.8	-11.8	-4.4	-14.2	-16.7	3.3	3.1
Other theft									
number	84,483	70,399	95,313	26,464	24,689	17,628	11,792	19,072	12,880
rate	1,805	2,047	4,726	2,834	2,657	2,179	1,714	2,815	1,936
% change in rate*	-7.4	-7.1	-4.4	-4.0	-3.5	-13.2	-5.0	4.1	-5.0
Property crime - Total									
number	147,126	156,367	156,512	47,023	44,616	32,084	21,333	37,878	25,689
rate	3,144	4,547	7,761	5,036	4,802	3,966	3,100	5,590	3,862
% change in rate*	-6.4	-7.6	-5.6	-4.6	-4.0	-13.0	-11.6	-2.0	-2.6
Offensive weapons									
number	1,744	408	1,563	254	433	258	43	402	251
rate	37	12	78	27	47	32	6	59	38
% change in rate*	1.0	7.5	-7.3	-15.6	-16.8	-42.2	-23.4	-6.4	7.4
Mischief									
number	26,172	25,576	22,420	8,677	11,048	6,897	5,221	13,134	5,188
rate	559	744	1,112	929	1,189	852	759	1,938	780
% change in rate*	-11.9	-6.2	-7.1	-7.3	-2.0	-15.2	-5.3	12.4	-5.5
Other Criminal Code - Total									
number	67,259	61,095	54,052	15,598	26,597	14,141	8,423	19,931	12,630
rate	1,437	1,777	2,680	1,670	2,863	1,748	1,224	2,941	1,899
% change in rate*	-13.0	-12.4	-1.8	-2.8	3.5	-19.8	-11.4	0.4	-9.4
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - excluding Traffic									
number	252,054	246,593	233,158	70,539	79,286	52,145	32,956	66,159	44,850
rate	5,385	7,171	11,562	7,554	8,533	6,445	4,790	9,763	6,743
% change in rate*	-7.9	-7.8	-4.6	-3.8	-2.7	-15.3	-10.4	-1.6	-4.8

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 1998 and 1999.

² Ottawa represents the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... figures not appropriate or applicable.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 5

Crime Rates for Census Metropolitan Areas by Major Crime Category, Canada, 1999^{1,2}

	Population	Total CC Offences		Violent crime		Property crime		Other crimes	
		1999 rate	% change in rate*	1999 rate	% change in rate	1999 rate	% change in rate	1999 rate	% change in rate
CMA with population of 500,000 and over									
Vancouver	2,016,643	11,562	-4.6	1,120	-4.1	7,761	-5.6	2,680	-1.8
Winnipeg	677,625	9,763	-1.6	1,232	-4.9	5,590	-2.0	2,941	0.4
Edmonton	929,145	8,533	-2.7	869	-13.1	4,802	-4.0	2,863	3.5
Calgary	933,748	7,554	-3.8	848	-0.7	5,036	-4.6	1,670	-2.8
Montréal	3,438,532	7,171	-7.8	847	2.5	4,547	-7.6	1,777	-12.4
Hamilton	665,169	6,743	-4.8	982	-4.3	3,862	-2.6	1,899	-9.4
Ottawa ³	809,034	6,445	-15.3	732	-16.1	3,966	-13.0	1,748	-19.8
Toronto	4,680,250	5,385	-7.9	805	-3.9	3,144	-6.5	1,437	-12.9
Québec	688,085	4,790	-10.4	465	1.8	3,100	-11.6	1,224	-11.4
CMA with population between 100,000 and 499,999									
Regina	199,163	15,191	-0.1	1,709	-1.4	8,536	-4.5	4,946	9.2
Victoria	316,195	11,865	3.9	1,268	-5.8	6,577	8.7	4,021	-0.3
Saskatoon	231,403	11,640	-1.0	1,332	-5.2	6,439	2.1	3,869	-4.6
Halifax	352,594	9,551	-0.5	988	-0.6	5,782	-2.2	2,782	3.2
Thunder Bay	126,649	9,109	-13.0	1,525	-13.2	4,178	-14.8	3,406	-10.7
London	418,660	8,581	3.1	885	-1.5	5,260	6.4	2,437	-2.0
Saint John ⁴	146,267	7,367	-4.4	1,039	-6.7	3,133	-7.6	3,194	-0.0
St. Catharines-Niagara ⁴	422,607	6,837	-8.8	617	-4.0	4,032	-7.2	2,188	-12.7
Windsor	299,966	6,595	-16.5	742	-18.5	3,517	-17.3	2,337	-14.4
Sudbury	160,357	6,514	-9.1	942	5.7	3,661	-15.1	1,911	-2.5
Kitchener ⁴	439,107	6,385	-7.3	669	-16.5	4,041	-6.3	1,675	-5.3
Hull ⁵	255,987	6,160	-8.7	654	-6.9	3,788	-7.7	1,718	-11.5
Sherbrooke	153,140	5,806	-2.5	396	-3.8	3,881	-3.9	1,529	1.7
Trois-Rivières	141,751	5,571	-13.1	475	-4.0	3,477	-15.6	1,619	-9.9
Chicoutimi-Jonquière ⁴	147,021	5,249	-16.6	569	-0.4	3,311	-22.9	1,369	-4.1

¹ The Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police agency jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. Data for St. John's CMA were not available for 1999.

² Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 1998 and 1999.

³ Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

⁴ Populations were adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

⁵ Hull refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS

Table 6


Persons Charged by Age Group and Gender, Selected Incidents, 1999

	Age Group by Gender				Total by Age Group	
	Adults (18 and over)		Youth (12 to 17)		Adult	Youth
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
	%		%		%	
Homicide ¹	91	9	80	20	90	10
Attempted murder	87	13	86	14	90	10
Assaults	84	16	71	29	85	15
Sexual assaults	98	2	96	4	84	16
Other sexual offences	97	3	96	4	85	15
Abduction	60	40	57	43	96	4
Robbery	91	9	84	16	67	33
Violent crime - Total	86	14	75	25	84	16
Break and enter	94	6	90	10	62	38
Motor vehicle theft	93	7	86	14	60	40
Fraud	71	29	68	32	92	8
Theft over \$5,000	78	22	84	16	85	15
Theft \$5,000 and under	70	30	68	32	73	27
Property crime - Total	78	22	78	22	73	27
Mischief	88	12	88	12	68	32
Arson	82	18	82	18	55	45
Prostitution	47	53	18	82	98	2
Offensive weapons	89	11	92	8	80	20
Criminal Code - Total	82	18	77	23	79	21
Impaired driving ²	89	11	85	15	99	1
Cannabis Offences	87	13	89	11	84	16
Cocaine Offences	82	18	77	23	94	6
Other Drugs Offences	83	17	83	17	88	12

¹ These data are based on the Homicide Survey, CCJS.

² Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80 mg., failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample. Age of persons charged with impaired driving comes from the Incident-based survey (UCR2).

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting survey, CCJS.

Table 7


Youths Charged with Selected Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1989 - 1999¹

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 ^f	1999
Population (aged 12-17)	2,244,017	2,256,094	2,273,918	2,305,122	2,330,853	2,359,067	2,386,301	2,417,604	2,439,553	2,449,216	2,449,610
Homicide											
number	47	47	48	58	36	58	68	49	54	56	45
rate	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2
% change in rate*	0.2	-0.5	1.3	19.2	-38.6	59.2	15.9	-28.9	9.2	3.3	-19.7
Assaults (levels 1, 2, 3)											
number	9,245	10,797	12,815	13,584	14,981	15,363	15,898	15,945	15,612	15,862	15,306
rate	412	479	564	589	643	651	666	660	640	648	625
% change in rate*	20.6	16.2	17.8	4.6	9.1	1.3	2.3	-1.0	-3.0	1.2	-3.5
Sexual assaults (levels 1, 2, 3)											
number	1,478	1,609	1,906	2,074	2,132	1,896	1,586	1,581	1,494	1,440	1,423
rate	66	71	84	90	91	80	66	65	61	59	58
% change in rate*	18.7	8.3	17.5	7.3	1.7	-12.1	-17.3	-1.6	-6.4	-4.0	-1.2
Robbery											
number	1,950	2,055	2,746	2,966	2,996	3,006	3,535	3,741	3,792	3,576	3,189
rate	87	91	121	129	129	127	148	155	155	146	130
% change in rate*	26.5	4.8	32.6	6.5	-0.1	-0.9	16.3	4.5	0.5	-6.1	-10.8
Total Violent Crime											
number	13,780	15,690	18,919	20,028	21,477	21,629	22,441	22,521	22,172	22,195	21,081
rate	614	695	832	869	921	917	940	932	909	906	861
% change in rate*	20.7	13.3	19.6	4.4	6.1	-0.5	2.6	-0.9	-2.4	-0.3	-5.0
Break and enter											
number	22,155	24,066	26,901	24,747	21,947	19,992	18,654	18,532	17,092	16,007	13,469
rate	987	1,067	1,183	1,074	942	847	782	767	701	654	550
% change in rate*	-7.1	8.0	10.9	-9.3	-12.3	-10.0	-7.8	-1.9	-8.6	-6.7	-15.9
Motor vehicle theft											
number	7,330	7,945	8,768	8,122	8,211	7,476	6,875	7,011	6,468	6,228	5,550
rate	327	352	386	352	352	317	288	290	265	254	227
% change in rate*	14.1	7.8	9.5	-8.6	-0.0	-10.0	-9.1	0.7	-8.6	-4.1	-10.9
Theft											
number	38,897	42,514	45,221	39,648	35,301	32,228	33,762	32,473	27,060	24,744	22,206
rate	1,733	1,884	1,989	1,720	1,515	1,366	1,415	1,343	1,109	1,010	907
% change in rate*	7.1	8.7	5.5	-13.5	-11.9	-9.8	3.6	-5.1	-17.4	-8.9	-10.3
Total Property crime											
number	76,317	83,741	91,656	83,603	74,981	68,907	68,105	66,702	58,340	54,104	48,415
rate	3,401	3,712	4,031	3,627	3,217	2,921	2,854	2,759	2,391	2,209	1,976
% change in rate*	2.9	9.1	8.6	-10.0	-11.3	-9.2	-2.3	-3.3	-13.3	-7.6	-10.5
Offensive weapons											
number	1,702	1,809	2,020	1,906	1,932	1,963	1,693	1,551	1,478	1,457	1,436
rate	76	80	89	83	83	83	71	64	61	59	59
% change in rate*	12.6	5.7	10.8	-6.9	0.2	0.4	-14.7	-9.6	-5.6	-1.8	-1.5
Mischief											
number	8,491	8,647	9,725	9,066	8,214	7,687	7,745	7,695	7,005	6,926	6,645
rate	378	383	428	393	352	326	325	318	287	283	271
% change in rate*	-1.6	1.3	11.6	-8.0	-10.4	-7.5	-0.4	-1.9	-9.8	-1.5	-4.1
Total Other Criminal Code											
number	25,865	27,118	31,741	31,651	30,429	29,089	30,117	30,187	30,329	31,153	30,250
rate	1,153	1,202	1,396	1,373	1,305	1,233	1,262	1,249	1,243	1,272	1,235
% change in rate*	7.3	4.3	16.1	-1.6	-4.9	-5.5	2.4	-1.1	-0.4	2.3	-2.9
Total Criminal Code											
number	115,962	126,549	142,316	135,282	126,887	119,625	120,663	119,410	110,841	107,452	99,746
rate	5,168	5,609	6,259	5,869	5,444	5,071	5,056	4,939	4,543	4,387	4,072
% change in rate*	5.7	8.5	11.6	-6.2	-7.2	-6.9	-0.3	-2.3	-8.0	-3.4	-7.2

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youths. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates from 1989 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimates for 1996, updated postcensal estimates from 1997 to 1999.

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

^f Revised figures

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 8

Youth Charged With Selected Criminal Code Incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1999¹

	Nfld. ²	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B. ³	Qc	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T. ⁴	Nvt. ⁴	Canada
Population 1999	49,576	12,395	76,110	61,080	549,616	914,665	98,179	96,479	264,298	318,474	2,935	4,009	3,174	2,449,610
Homicide														
number	1	-	-	-	9	10	4	6	9	6	-	-	-	45
rate	2.1	-	-	-	1.6	1.1	4.1	6.2	3.4	1.9	-	-	-	1.8
% change in rate*	...	...	...	...	15.1	-29.4	-0.8	20.4	-19.4	19.8	...	...	...	-19.7
Sexual Assault (1, 2, 3)														
number	47	6	45	46	189	545	86	86	154	199	5	10	5	1,423
rate	98	48	59	75	34	60	88	89	58	62	170	249	158	58
% change in rate*	111.9	-25.6	-0.3	25.9	26.4	-7.0	0.3	-7.2	-12.3	-6.7	...	-10.7	-62.4	-1.2
Assault (1, 2, 3)														
number	281	22	426	471	1,985	6,633	989	894	1,706	1,796	22	44	37	15,306
rate	583	177	560	771	361	725	1,007	927	645	564	750	1,098	1,166	625
% change in rate*	7.5	-50.4	0.1	12.5	3.6	-6.7	1.6	-0.7	0.3	-12.5	-23.0	-11.8	-9.6	-3.5
Robbery														
number	13	5	67	32	618	1,189	286	150	408	411	7	3	-	3,189
rate	27	40	88	52	112	130	291	155	154	129	239	75	-	130
% change in rate*	-38.7	-29.1	-17.6	35.0	-1.2	-7.7	-14.3	-34.8	-9.5	-20.6	...	...	...	-10.8
Violent crime - Total														
number	362	36	597	593	3,022	8,738	1,441	1,226	2,403	2,513	36	66	48	21,081
rate	751	290	784	971	550	955	1,468	1,271	909	789	1,227	1,646	1,512	861
% change in rate*	10.8	-40.4	-1.2	10.8	3.2	-7.5	-3.8	-6.7	-3.3	-13.2	-15.0	-8.7	-24.3	-5.0
Breaking & Entering														
number	579	52	608	391	1,801	3,814	1,050	1,601	1,622	1,524	54	272	101	13,469
rate	1,201	420	799	640	328	417	1,069	1,659	614	479	1,840	6,785	3,182	550
% change in rate*	-3.9	72.0	-13.3	-1.5	-26.1	-13.7	-11.5	-15.7	-17.7	-21.9	-43.5	39.2	-25.2	-15.9
Motor Vehicle Theft														
number	89	22	158	112	758	1,544	735	725	815	520	17	33	22	5,550
rate	185	177	208	183	138	169	749	751	308	163	579	823	693	227
% change in rate*	-24.3	21.3	-26.4	-6.3	-13.8	-15.5	-5.7	0.6	-3.5	-16.8	23.3	-7.4	-52.2	-10.9
Other Theft														
number	557	82	1,121	688	2,471	7,698	1,641	1,383	2,822	3,607	73	38	25	22,206
rate	1,156	662	1,473	1,126	450	842	1,671	1,433	1,068	1,133	2,487	948	788	907
% change in rate*	10.3	-9.6	11.3	-4.4	-17.4	-17.6	-1.4	-5.6	-8.4	-4.9	21.5	-44.3	1.8	-10.3
Property crime - Total														
number	1,328	172	2,041	1,331	5,509	16,328	3,730	4,365	6,470	6,482	159	351	149	48,415
rate	2,755	1,388	2,682	2,179	1,002	1,785	3,799	4,524	2,448	2,035	5,417	8,755	4,694	1,976
% change in rate*	1.4	8.1	0.6	-2.6	-18.0	-13.9	-4.5	-8.6	-8.6	-10.2	-15.0	12.3	-29.0	-10.5
Offensive weapons														
number	12	-	35	27	66	671	176	70	199	173	2	3	2	1,436
rate	25	-	46	44	12	73	179	73	75	54	68	75	63	59
% change in rate*	107.4	...	-3.1	95.3	3.9	-6.5	41.9	-15.4	-14.8	-6.6	...	-1.7	-2.3	-1.5
Mischief														
number	170	27	351	251	679	2,238	448	647	923	835	20	34	22	6,645
rate	353	218	461	411	124	245	456	671	349	262	681	848	693	271
% change in rate*	-3.6	-13.5	18.2	-8.9	-7.8	-0.8	-15.4	-12.3	-7.8	1.1	-47.9	15.2	115.0	-4.1
Other Criminal Code - Total														
number	630	71	1,177	1,108	2,545	11,788	2,073	3,724	4,146	2,708	108	130	42	30,250
rate	1,307	573	1,546	1,814	463	1,289	2,111	3,860	1,569	850	3,680	3,243	1,323	1,235
% change in rate*	-5.0	3.6	5.4	-16.9	-4.0	-2.2	-1.8	-5.1	-5.3	0.6	6.5	-3.2	-8.8	-2.9
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL - without traffic crime														
number	2,320	279	3,815	3,032	11,076	36,854	7,244	9,315	13,019	11,703	303	547	239	99,746
rate	4,814	2,251	5,012	4,964	2,015	4,029	7,378	9,655	4,926	3,675	10,324	13,644	7,530	4,072
% change in rate*	0.8	-3.2	1.7	-6.3	-9.9	-8.9	-3.6	-7.0	-6.6	-8.6	-8.4	5.4	-25.1	-7.2

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: updated postcensal estimates for 1998 and 1999.

² Royal Newfoundland constabulary St. John's jurisdiction was unable to contribute 1999 crime statistics due to a new Police Information and Management System. As such, 1999 data have been substituted with 1998 counts.

³ In 1998, Codiac Regional was unable to provide accurate crime statistics due to a change in police information systems. As such, 1998 data have been substituted with 1999 counts.

⁴ Data for 1998 for the Northwest Territories (without Nunavut) and Nunavut have been estimated in order to allow for comparisons with 1999.

* In comparison to the previous year rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

... Figures not appropriate or applicable

- Nil or zero

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 9

Year	Population Estimates of Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1989 to 1999													Canada		
	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Qc.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Nun.			
	thousands															
1989																
Total	576.4	130.1	903.9	735.2	6,929.5	10,109.8	1,103.5	1,019.3	2,495.8	3,198.5	27.1	57.0	...	27,286.2		
Adult (18+)	407.3	94.4	676.7	542.8	5,282.9	7,666.8	813.4	729.0	1,804.0	2,433.0	19.4	35.9	...	20,505.3		
Youth (12-17)	65.8	12.2	79.9	70.6	551.7	810.6	96.5	92.4	210.4	245.8	2.2	6.0	...	2,244.0		
1990																
Total	578.1	130.5	909.7	740.1	7,004.4	10,299.6	1,105.6	1,007.1	2,547.6	3,291.4	27.8	58.9	...	27,700.9		
Adult (18+)	412.9	94.9	683.1	549.2	5,341.3	7,814.7	814.8	720.4	1,840.8	2,504.3	19.8	37.2	...	20,833.4		
Youth (12-17)	63.7	12.0	78.2	69.1	561.2	810.7	95.8	91.8	214.4	251.0	2.2	5.9	...	2,256.1		
1991																
Total	579.5	130.3	915.1	745.5	7,064.7	10,427.6	1,109.6	1,002.7	2,592.6	3,373.4	28.9	60.9	...	28,030.9		
Adult (18+)	418.7	95.0	689.3	556.3	5,385.3	7,913.1	818.1	717.9	1,873.1	2,567.8	20.7	38.4	...	21,093.5		
Youth (12-17)	61.5	12.0	77.0	67.7	571.9	811.5	95.4	92.0	219.2	257.4	2.3	6.1	...	2,273.9		
1992																
Total	580.2	130.9	919.4	748.5	7,112.8	10,570.5	1,113.1	1,004.0	2,634.4	3,470.3	30.2	62.4	...	28,376.5		
Adult (18+)	423.2	95.7	694.4	561.3	5,419.0	8,010.2	821.2	720.0	1,903.4	2,641.5	21.6	39.1	...	21,350.6		
Youth (12-17)	59.8	11.9	76.4	66.7	583.9	820.0	94.7	92.7	224.6	265.6	2.5	6.3	...	2,305.1		
1993																
Total	580.2	132.3	923.7	749.5	7,165.2	10,690.4	1,118.4	1,006.9	2,670.7	3,571.5	30.6	63.5	...	28,703.1		
Adult (18+)	427.2	97.0	699.9	565.0	5,465.8	8,099.7	826.2	723.5	1,933.4	2,721.4	22.0	39.9	...	21,621.0		
Youth (12-17)	58.4	11.9	75.7	65.4	590.1	827.5	94.3	93.9	229.9	274.8	2.5	6.5	...	2,330.9		
1994																
Total	574.8	133.7	926.3	750.9	7,207.3	10,827.5	1,123.9	1,009.7	2,704.9	3,681.8	30.0	65.2	...	29,036.0		
Adult (18+)	427.0	98.3	704.1	568.8	5,508.3	8,204.2	831.0	726.9	1,964.8	2,810.1	21.6	41.0	...	21,906.2		
Youth (12-17)	56.6	12.0	75.0	64.4	592.3	839.3	94.4	95.1	234.7	286.3	2.5	6.6	...	2,359.1		
1995																
Total	568.0	134.8	927.7	751.8	7,241.4	10,964.9	1,129.8	1,014.2	2,739.9	3,784.0	30.9	66.6	...	29,353.9		
Adult (18+)	425.3	99.5	706.8	572.1	5,549.8	8,310.4	835.7	732.5	1,997.1	2,894.8	22.2	42.0	...	22,188.2		
Youth (12-17)	55.0	12.0	75.1	63.6	588.2	854.8	95.1	95.9	240.4	296.5	2.7	6.8	...	2,386.3		
1996																
Total	560.6	136.2	931.2	753.0	7,274.0	11,100.9	1,134.3	1,019.5	2,780.6	3,882.0	31.9	67.6	...	29,671.9		
Adult (18+)	423.3	100.8	711.1	575.6	5,588.7	8,410.7	840.0	738.7	2,034.4	2,977.2	23.1	42.7	...	22,466.3		
Youth (12-17)	53.4	12.1	75.5	63.3	583.5	872.4	96.0	96.7	246.8	308.0	2.9	7.0	...	2,417.6		
1997																
Total	554.1	136.9	934.5	754.2	7,302.6	11,249.5	1,136.6	1,022.0	2,837.2	3,959.7	32.2	67.7	...	29,987.2		
Adult (18+)	422.2	101.9	716.4	579.4	5,634.4	8,540.4	843.5	743.8	2,084.6	3,045.3	23.4	42.8	...	22,778.1		
Youth (12-17)	51.8	12.2	75.8	62.8	574.9	889.9	96.7	96.6	253.6	315.2	3.0	7.0	...	2,439.6		
1998																
Total	545.4	137.0	936.1	753.5	7,323.0	11,384.4	1,138.0	1,025.2	2,906.9	3,998.3	31.6	67.5	...	30,246.9		
Adult (18+)	419.0	102.6	720.8	581.9	5,679.8	8,665.0	846.7	749.2	2,146.2	3,086.3	23.0	42.7	...	23,063.2		
Youth (12-17)	50.0	12.3	75.8	61.8	562.5	904.1	97.4	96.8	260.3	318.1	3.0	7.0	...	2,449.2		
1999																
Total	541.0	138.0	939.8	755.0	7,345.4	11,513.8	1,143.5	1,027.8	2,964.7	4,023.1	30.6	41.6	27.0	30,491.3		
Adult (18+)	419.0	103.9	727.1	586.0	5,727.2	8,789.4	853.1	754.0	2,200.3	3,118.9	22.4	28.3	15.3	23,345.0		
Youth (12-17)	48.2	12.4	76.1	61.1	549.6	914.7	98.2	96.5	264.3	318.5	2.9	4.0	3.2	2,449.6		
1998-1999																
% Change																
Total	-0.8	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.3	1.1	0.5	0.3	2.0	0.6	-3.0	-38.4	...	0.8		
Adult (18+)	-0.0	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.4	0.8	0.6	2.5	1.1	-2.4	-33.7	...	1.2		
Youth (12-17)	-3.6	0.7	0.3	-1.2	-2.3	1.2	0.8	-0.3	1.5	0.1	-1.5	-43.1	...	0.0		

... Figures not appropriate or applicable.

Source: Report entitled Annual Demographic Statistics, 1999, Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates from 1989 to 1990, final intercensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, final postcensal estimate for 1996, updated postcensal estimates from 1997 to 1999.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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