



Juristat

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics



Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE Vol. 18 no. 5

BREAKING AND ENTERING IN CANADA, 1996

by Rebecca Kong

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 1996, there were 396,085 incidents of breaking and entering (B&E) reported by the police. Almost two-thirds of these were residential, meaning that at least 1 in every 50 residences was broken into that year.
- After decreasing for four years in a row, the overall rate of B&E (1,322 per 100,000 population) increased very slightly in 1996 (+0.2%). Compared to 1991 when B&E reached an all-time high, the rate has fallen 15%. In 1996, residential B&E grew for the second year in a row and business B&E remained stable after four years of decreases.
- Among the provinces, British Columbia and Saskatchewan continued to report the highest rates, while the Atlantic provinces reported the lowest rates. Newfoundland's rate was the lowest of all provinces, less than half that of British Columbia.
- Over the last five years, most provinces have reported decreases in their B&E rate, with the largest drops seen in Alberta (-33%), Prince Edward Island (-27%), Newfoundland (-25%), Nova Scotia (-21%) and Quebec (-21%). Saskatchewan was the only province to show an increase (+4%).
- Vancouver reported the highest rate by a wide margin among the nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs). Rates fell in five of the nine CMAs in 1996, with Ottawa reporting the largest decrease (-16%). Ottawa's rate, however, was still 10% higher than in 1991. Among the smaller CMAs, Regina and Saskatoon reported the highest rates.
- The type of item most frequently stolen from residences was audio/video equipment (32%), followed by jewellery (13%) and money, cheques or bonds (11%). A business B&E was more likely to result in the theft of money, cheques or bonds (22%), office equipment (20%) and audio/video equipment (11%).
- In 1996, over 46,200 persons were charged with B&E. Four in ten were youths and the vast majority were male (93%).
- While 39% of youths convicted of B&E were sentenced to custody, 67% of adults convicted of this offence were sentenced to prison. This difference is likely due to adults having longer criminal histories. The median sentence length for youths was 90 days and the median sentence length for adults was 180 days.



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March 1998
ISSN 0715-271X

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INTRODUCTION

Breaking and entering is one of the most common and most serious property offences. Historically, breaking and entering has accounted for about one-quarter of all property crimes reported to the police. Not only can this crime result in the theft or destruction of property, but it is also an invasion of personal or work space that can leave victims fearful of recurrence or personal harm.

Canada's law against breaking and entering is based on old English common law that narrowly defined the crime as an intrusion of a home during the night with the intent to commit a felony therein.¹ In Canada today, the offence includes the breaking and entering of properties other than homes. However, by setting a maximum penalty of life imprisonment for the breaking and entering of a dwelling-house, our law continues to recognize the invasion of a home as more serious than the invasion of another type of structure (Box 1).

Box 1: Breaking and entering as defined by the Criminal Code

Section 348 (1) Breaking and entering with intent, committing offence or breaking out

Every one who

- (a) breaks and enters a place with the intent to commit an indictable offence therein,
- (b) breaks and enters a place and commits an indictable offence therein, or
- (c) breaks out of a place after
 - (i) committing an indictable offence therein, or
 - (ii) entering the place with intent to commit an indictable offence therein,

is guilty

- (a) if the offence is committed in relation to a dwelling-house, of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for life, and
- (b) if the offence is committed in relation to a place other than a dwelling-house, of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

(Criminal Code of Canada, R.S.C. 1985)

This *Juristat* will provide an overview of residential and business breaking and entering (B&E) in Canada. Trends in police-reported B&Es will be examined at the national, provincial and census metropolitan area levels. In addition, this *Juristat* will present information on the characteristics of B&Es, the persons committing them and the responses of youth and adult courts.

TRENDS IN BREAKING AND ENTERING

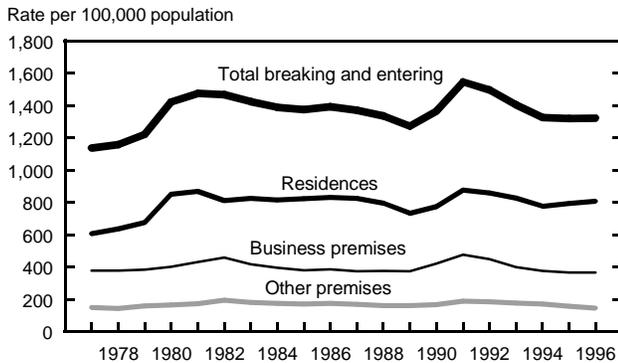
After recent declines, B&E stabilized in 1996

In 1996, police reported 396,085 incidents of B&E, a rate of 1,322 per 100,000 population. After decreasing for four years in a row, the rate of B&E increased by less than one percent in 1996 (Table 1). Since 1977, the rate of B&E has seen notable increases only twice: once in the late 1970's and again in the early 1990's (Figure 1). Compared to 1991, when B&Es reached an all-time high (1,546 per 100,000 population), the rate has tumbled 15%. Although it is lower than five and ten years ago, the 1996 rate is still 16% higher than the rate recorded twenty years ago.

¹ *Yogis, John A., Q.C. (1990). Canadian Law Dictionary. Baron's: Toronto, page 32.*

Figure 1

Breaking and entering in Canada, 1977-1996



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

Under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, police-reported B&E is categorized as three types: residential, business and other (Box 2). While the majority of B&Es in 1996 were residential (six in ten), business B&Es accounted for almost three in ten and other B&Es for one in ten. This distribution is similar to that of previous years. Police-reported B&Es in this report include attempts.

Residential B&E grows for second year in a row

Residential B&E is the only type to have increased over the past two years (Figure 1, Table 1), including a 2% increase in the rate in 1996. Although the 1996 rate (808 per 100,000 population) was lower than the rates recorded five (877) and ten (831) years ago, it was still 33% higher than that recorded in 1977 (608). As it accounts for the majority of B&E, an increase in residential B&E fuels an increase in the overall total.

Compared to other industrialized countries, risk of residential B&E is high in Canada

Among a number of industrialized countries surveyed about their experiences with crime, Canada ranked second highest in terms of residential B&E. Results from the 1996 International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) indicate that 5.3% of Canadian households experienced at least one completed or attempted B&E in 1995. Canada was followed by the Netherlands (5.1%), the United States (4.9%), France (3.9%), Scotland (3.6%) and Northern Ireland (2.5%). With

6.1% of households victimized in 1995, England and Wales ranked the highest.

According to the number of incidents reported to UCR, the rate of households that experienced a B&E was 1 in 50, or 2%. There are two possible reasons that could explain the difference between this household rate and that of the ICVS. First, the ICVS is a relatively small sample survey and the UCR survey is a census of all crimes reported to police. Second, the UCR data reflect only those incidents reported to police. However, results from the ICVS indicate that 85% of victims of B&E reported to the police. The extent to which non-reporting to police can account for the difference between ICVS and UCR rates of household victimization is therefore questionable.

Business B&E remains stable

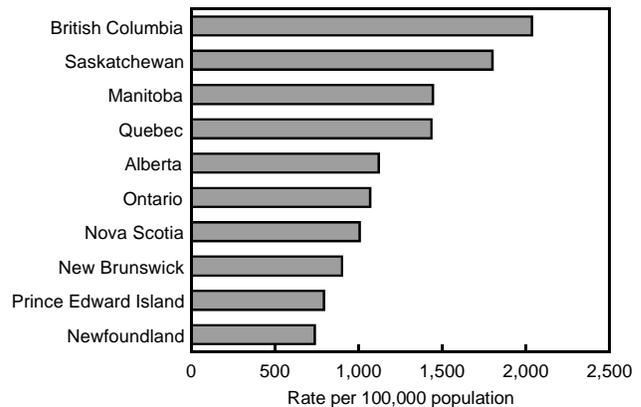
After decreasing four years in a row, the rate of business B&E did not change in 1996 (Figure 1, Table 1). The rate of "other" B&E (e.g. storage facilities, sheds) dropped for the fifth consecutive year in 1996 (-7%) (Table 1).

British Columbia continues to report highest rates

In 1996, British Columbia reported the highest rate of B&E among the provinces, followed by Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec (Figure 2). Over the last five years, rates have consistently been highest in British Columbia and, except for 1992, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have always ranked within

Figure 2

Breaking and entering by province, 1996



Source: Table 2.

Box 2: Police-reported categories of B&E

Residential B&E:	The breaking and entering of a private residence, including single homes, garden homes, apartments, cottages, mobile homes, rooming houses, etc.
Business B&E:	The breaking and entering of a facility used for commercial or public affairs. These include, for example, financial institutions, stores, and non-commercial enterprises such as government buildings, schools, churches, and non-profit agencies.
Other B&E:	The breaking and entering of private property structures (e.g. shed, detached garages) or storage and transport facilities.

the top three. In general, the Atlantic provinces reported the lowest rates. Newfoundland reported the lowest rate of all provinces in 1996, less than half that of British Columbia.

Rates declined in just four of the ten provinces in 1996 (Table 2). Only Ontario and Prince Edward Island reported notable decreases. Increases among the six remaining provinces ranged from 1% in Saskatchewan to 9% in Newfoundland.

Consistent with the national trend, most provinces reported decreases from 1991 to 1996 (Table 2). The only exceptions were Saskatchewan (+4%) and British Columbia (no change). The largest declines over this period were reported in Alberta, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Quebec.

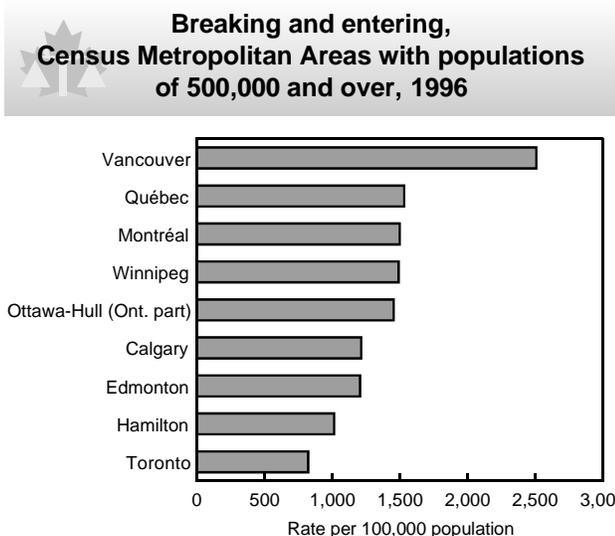
In terms of residential B&E, Ontario (-2%) and Alberta (-4%) were the only provinces to show a decrease in 1996 (Table 3). Newfoundland reported the largest increase (+28%). After four years of decline, Nova Scotia's rate jumped 14% in 1996.

Business B&E declined in five of the ten provinces in 1996 (Table 3). Increases in Quebec and British Columbia followed four years of either decreases or little growth.

Among the nine largest cities, Vancouver ranks highest

Among Canada's nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs),² Vancouver reported the highest rate of B&E in 1996 (Figure 3). In fact, Vancouver's rate was over 60% higher than Québec City's, the CMA with the second highest rate. As has been the case since 1991, when CMA data first became available, Toronto reported the lowest rate among Canada's largest CMAs.

Figure 3



Source: Table 4.

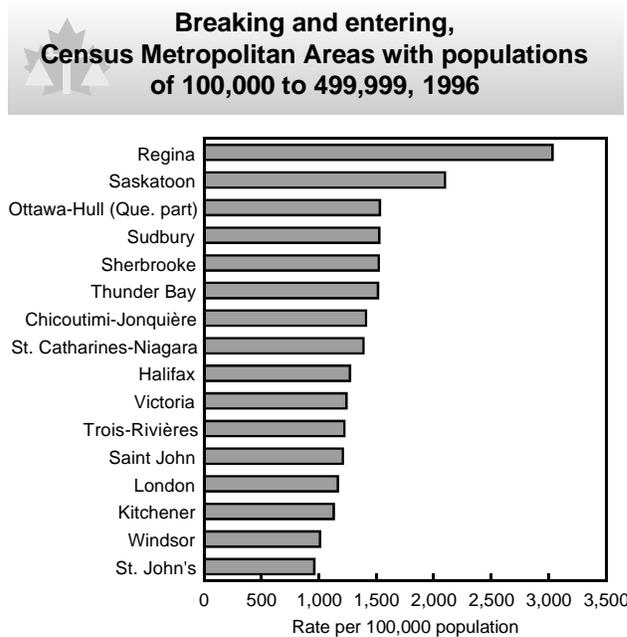
In 1996, rates decreased in five of the nine largest CMAs, with the greatest drop in Ottawa (-16%) (Table 4). After decreasing four years in a row, Québec City reported a substantial increase in 1996 (+17%). Ottawa and Vancouver are the only CMAs to report higher rates in 1996 than in 1991. However, while Ottawa's rate fell substantially in 1996, Vancouver's grew by 3%.

Only Ottawa (-9%), Edmonton (-6%) and Toronto (-2%) showed decreases in the rate of residential B&E in 1996 (Table 5). Ottawa's decrease follows three years of growth, including a 31% jump in 1995. Police in Québec City (+21%) reported the greatest increase in 1996.

Business B&E fell in five of the nine CMAs, with the largest decrease reported in Ottawa (-29%). Of the four cities showing increases, Québec reported the greatest growth in 1996 (+17%).

Among all 25 CMAs, Regina reported the highest rate (Figure 4). In 1996, rates grew in eight of the sixteen smaller CMAs, with Windsor (+29%), St. John's (+21%) and Saint John (+18%) reporting the greatest increases (Table 4). The largest drops were seen in Thunder Bay (-20%) and London (-16%). Only two CMAs have shown increases since 1991: Saint John (+27%) and Saskatoon (+23%).

Figure 4



Source: Table 4.

² A census metropolitan area (CMA) is an area with a large urban core (over 100,000 population) having adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration.

Police initiatives to reduce B&E

Decreases in rates in some cities may be the result of specific police initiatives aimed at reducing B&E. Some researchers, and police themselves, argue that it is usually a small number of offenders who are responsible for the majority of B&Es.³ Therefore, to reduce B&E, some cities have set up initiatives based on this notion. Initiatives usually include: the establishment of special response units; the identification and targeting of repeat or organized offenders; the use of technology to improve communication, crime analysis and investigation; improved communication with victims and potential witnesses; and, changes in case management strategies.

The Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Service is an example of a police department attributing their recent decline in B&E to special initiatives.⁴ Recently, their B&E unit established special surveillance teams and began using innovative investigative software to compile detailed information on each B&E. These detailed data allow the police to profile likely suspects, and the surveillance teams are assigned specifically to catch the suspects. The unit's strategy is simple: if they are able to keep those few offenders responsible for the majority of B&Es off the streets, the incidents of B&E should decrease.

CHARACTERISTICS OF B&E INCIDENTS

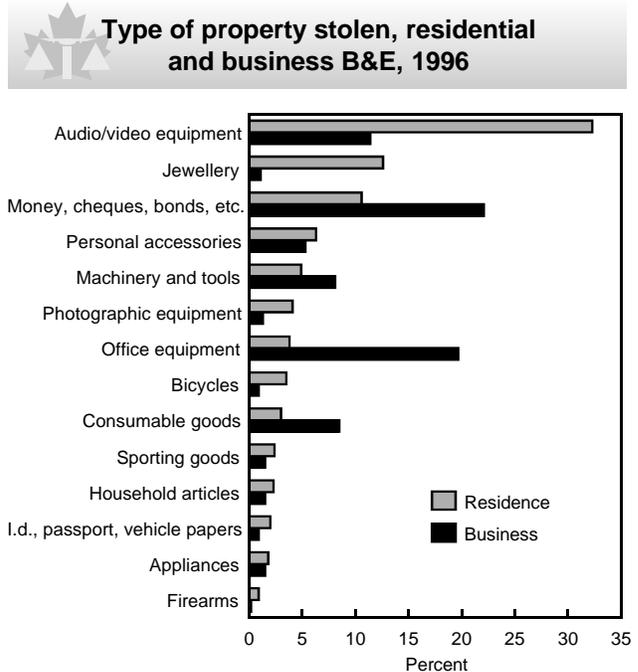
Residences targeted for audio/video equipment, businesses for money

The type of property stolen from residences versus businesses is quite different. While almost one-third of property stolen from residences was audio/video equipment such as televisions, stereos and VCRs, the same was true of just over one in ten items stolen from businesses (Figure 5). Other types of property most frequently taken from residences included: jewellery (13%); money, cheques or bonds (11%); personal accessories (e.g. clothing) (6%); machinery and tools (5%); photographic equipment (4%); office equipment (e.g. home computers, fax machines) (4%); and, bicycles (3%).

In addition to audio/video equipment (11%), thieves who broke into businesses most often stole money, cheques or bonds (22%), office equipment (20%), consumable goods (e.g. liquor and cigarettes) (9%), machinery and tools (8%) and personal accessories (5%). Jewellery accounted for just 1% of items stolen from businesses.

Although firearms accounted for very few items stolen during a B&E, they were more frequently stolen from homes (0.9%) than businesses (0.2%). The sample of 154 police agencies reporting to the Revised UCR Survey in 1996 reported 2,014 firearms stolen during residential B&Es and another 121 stolen during business B&Es. Forty-four percent of the firearms were rifles and another 33% were shotguns. Only 7% were restricted weapons. The 154 police forces reporting these data represent 47% of the national volume of crime.

Figure 5



Source: Non-random sample of 154 police agencies accounting for 47% of the national volume of crime. The data are not nationally representative.

Claims and cost to the insurance industry are declining

As the rate of B&Es reported to police has fallen over the last five years, so has the number of insurance claims and the cost to the insurance industry. According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada⁵, the number of residential and commercial claims has dropped 30% from 1992 to 1996, and the cost to the insurance industry has fallen 8%. The extent to which this decline may be attributed to victims failing to file claims to avoid increases in premiums is unknown. In 1996, claims for residential and commercial B&Es cost the insurance industry \$398 million, compared to \$434 million in 1992.

A sample of police departments suggest home invasions are decreasing

Police-reported data suggest B&Es involving violence are rare. About 1% of total B&Es recorded by the Revised UCR survey in 1996 involved a violent offence. Of these, the vast majority involved an assault (72%). Others involved robbery (12%), sexual assault (6%), abduction (5%) and criminal harassment (3%). Nine in ten violent B&Es occurred at a place of residence.

³ Eck, John "E. Solving Crimes: Investigation of Burglary and Robbery." (Washington, DC: Police Executive Research Forum, 1983).

⁴ Bagnell, James. "Nabbing robbers with intuition and software," in *The Ottawa Citizen*, August 26, 1996.

⁵ Members of the Insurance Bureau of Canada represent approximately 80% of the total insurance industry.

In recent years, some cities have witnessed the new criminal phenomenon of "home invasions". While no official definition of this crime exists, it is normally characterized by forced entry into a private residence while the occupants are home and involves violence against the occupants. Broadly defined, it encompasses both robberies that occur at a place of residence and residential B&Es involving any other type of violent offence. Compared to the total number of robberies and B&Es reported to police, however, those that are characterized as home invasions are rare. Regardless, this type of crime is particularly frightening to the victim as it involves an attack within the sanctity of one's home. A sample of police forces reporting to the Revised UCR Survey reported 2,470 of these incidents in 1996. Almost half of these involved robbery of the occupants. Police data suggest that the number of home invasions grew slightly from 1993 to 1994 (+1%), but decreased 10% in 1995 and 8% in 1996.⁶

REPORTING TO POLICE

Victimization surveys show that B&E is a crime very likely to be reported to police. Results from the 1996 International Crime Victimization Survey revealed that 85% of Canadian respondents who experienced a residential B&E during 1995 reported it to the police. This same survey was also conducted in 1989 and 1992, and both years showed similar results (81% and 82%, respectively). The only other crime to rate higher in terms of reporting to police is motor vehicle theft.

When asked why they reported the incident to police, respondents most frequently stated that they felt a duty to do so (41%). Though respondents could give more than one reason for doing so, just one-quarter stated they had reported to police for insurance purposes. Other reasons included: to punish the offender (25%); to recover their property (22%); and, to prevent the incident from happening again (14%).⁷

PREVENTION OF B&E

As one-third of Canadians feel they are likely to fall victim to a residential B&E⁸, many people take measures to secure their home. More than half of all Canadians have installed special door locks and over a third participate in Neighbourhood Watch programs (Hung, 1996). Other steps taken include keeping a dog (30%), and installing special bars (21%), high fences (20%) or burglar alarms (20%). About one in ten Canadians take no preventive measures and almost one-third do not arrange for someone to watch their home while away for short periods.

CLEARANCE RATES

Police data suggest that, as with most property crimes, incidents of B&E are rarely solved. In 1996, 16% of B&E incidents were cleared either by laying a charge against an accused or were cleared otherwise.⁹ A sample of police data show that almost half of incidents "cleared otherwise" are due to police not laying charges because the accused person is already involved in other crimes being handled by the police. Clearance rates for B&E have been decreasing steadily since 1986 when 21% of incidents were cleared. Moreover, the clearance rate for B&E was lower than the rate for the total of all other property crimes (24% in 1996).

⁶ These data are based on 61 police agencies that have been reporting consistently to the Revised UCR Survey since 1993. These are mostly from Quebec and Ontario and represent 29% of the national volume of crime. Please see the methodology section for more details.

⁷ Percentages add to more than 100 as multiple responses were allowed.

⁸ 1996 International Crime Victimization Survey.

⁹ An incident "cleared otherwise" means that a person was identified in connection with the incident and against whom a charge could be laid but was not for various reasons (e.g. under 12 years of age; already involved in other crimes for which charges have already been laid; accused already sentenced).

Tips to protect your home or business from B&E

To protect your home...

- Illuminate your front and rear door at night.
- Do not hide keys around the exterior of your residence.
- Mark all household valuables with your social insurance number or your driver's license for easy identification.
- Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- If you will not be returning to your home until after dusk, ensure that several lights in your home are on timers to give the appearance that the house is occupied.
- Install a peep-hole in your entrance door. Avoid opening your door unless you know who is there. Do not rely on a door chain-lock.
- Close curtains or blinds to conceal valuables from thieves who "window shop".
- Install bars on basement windows. To allow an escape route in case of fire, be sure at least one set of window bars can be opened from the interior.

To protect your business...

- Illuminate your front and rear doors at night.
- Consider installing a security film on windows to discourage thieves from breaking glass to enter.
- Alarm systems, if properly installed, are an effective deterrent when used correctly.
- Empty cash drawers at the end of the business day and leave the cash register open after hours. Use signage to clearly identify that no money is kept on the premises.
- To discourage thieves who "window shop" before breaking in, close blinds and curtains to obscure the view of valuables (e.g. computers, fax machines) from the exterior.
- Contact your local police for more information. Most police services offer free business security evaluations.

Source: The Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Service.

Researchers and police explain low clearance rates by referring to the idea that it is usually a small number of offenders who are responsible for the majority of B&Es. Police have found that once an offender is caught, police can clear the offence for which he or she has been accused, but they may not have the resources to link this accused to previous B&Es. As such, previous B&Es will remain unsolved. In addition, in an effort to reduce the number of B&Es, some forces have deliberately moved their resources toward targeting known offenders and away from closing cases.¹⁰

PERSONS CHARGED

Six in ten persons charged are adults

In 1996, over 46,200 persons were caught and charged by police for committing this crime (Table 6).¹¹ Of these, 60% were adults and 40% were youths aged 12 to 17 years, a distribution that has changed very little since 1986, the year the *Young Offenders Act* was implemented across all provinces and territories. A sample of police departments show that a large portion of persons accused¹² of B&E were aged 15 to 19 years (Figure 6). The vast majority of persons charged with B&E were male (93%).

Figure 6



Source: Non-random sample of 154 police agencies accounting for 47% of the national volume of crime. The data are not nationally representative.

In recent years, the number of persons charged has been decreasing dramatically (Table 6). For instance, from 1991 to 1996 the number declined steadily, falling 30%. This drop can be explained by the decrease in the number of incidents reported from 1991 to 1996 (-9%) and the small decrease in the rate of incidents cleared by charge: 13% were cleared by charge in 1991 compared to 10% in 1996. While the number of females charged has not been falling to the same extent as the number of males, it is still 10% lower than in 1992.

COURT DISPOSITIONS AND SENTENCING

Four in ten youths convicted of B&E were repeat offenders

During the fiscal year 1995-96, youth courts across Canada handled 12,481 cases of youths charged with B&E.¹³ Of these cases, 76% were found guilty. Of those found guilty, 56% received probation as the most serious sentence.

Compared to the remaining property crime caseload (i.e. total property caseload minus B&E), cases of B&E were more likely to receive a sentence of open custody (21% versus 15%) or secure custody (18% versus 10%). This is not surprising given that the *Criminal Code* proclaims B&E a more serious offence than other property crimes like arson, theft and mischief. For both open and secure custody, the median¹⁴ sentence length for those convicted of B&E was 90 days. Table 7 shows the use of custody for this crime has changed very little in recent years.

Forty-three percent of youth court B&E cases that resulted in conviction in 1995-96 involved repeat offenders¹⁵ (Table 8). This proportion is similar to the number of repeat offenders in the remaining property crime caseload (42%). Males convicted of B&E were more likely to be repeat offenders than females (44% versus 26%), a finding which is also true of the remaining property crime caseload.

Sentences to custody for repeat young offenders increased with the number of previous convictions and, conversely, the use of probation declined (Table 9). While eight in ten persistent offenders (those with three or more prior convictions) received custody as their most serious sentence, the same is true for slightly more than four in ten youths with just one prior conviction. The vast majority of first-time offenders received probation as their most serious sentence (76%).

For both first-time offenders and repeat offenders, sentences were harsher for youths convicted of B&E than for those convicted of any other property crime. For example, while 18% of first-time offenders convicted of B&E were sentenced to some form of custody, the same is true of only 8% of the remaining property crime caseload (Table 9). Repeat offenders convicted of B&E were also more likely to receive custody than repeat offenders in the remaining property crime caseload (59% versus 36%). Again, this difference is expected given B&E is a more serious form of property crime.

¹⁰ The Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police Service is an example of a police service using this strategy.

¹¹ Reflects persons charged in incidents where the most serious offence was B&E.

¹² Under the UCR survey, an accused is a person who has been identified as a suspect in an incident and against whom a charge has either been laid or could be laid in connection with that incident. Charges may not have been laid for various reasons (e.g. under 12 years of age; already involved in other crimes for which charges have already been laid).

¹³ Where B&E was the most significant charge. These data are collected through the Youth Court Survey. Please refer to the methodology section for more details.

¹⁴ Median refers to the middle number when all numbers are ordered from lowest to highest.

¹⁵ For the purpose of this report, a repeat offender is a youth convicted of B&E in 1995-96 with previous convictions of any kind, not just B&E. Please refer to the methodology section for more details.

Almost seven in ten adults convicted of B&E in provincial court are imprisoned

In 1995-96, a sample of 403 adult provincial courts dealt with 15,348 cases of B&E.¹⁶ Of these, 5% (733 cases) were transferred to a superior court, the outcome of which is unknown as data are not available. Among the remaining cases, 68% ended in a finding of guilt. The majority of convictions resulted with imprisonment as the most serious sentence (67%), while just under one-third received probation as the most serious sentence. The median length of prison sentences was 180 days. Although recidivism data are not available from the Adult Criminal Court Survey, sentences for adults are likely more severe than sentences for youth because of lengthier criminal histories. Compared to convictions for other types of property crimes, cases of B&E were more likely to be sentenced to prison. For example, 55% of arson convictions resulted in imprisonment, as did 36% of convictions for fraud.

More Canadians looking to imprisonment as the answer

The 1996 International Crime Victimization Survey asked respondents which sentence they considered most appropriate for a recidivist burglar – a man aged 21 who is found guilty of residential B&E for the second time having stolen a colour television. This question was asked each of the three years the survey was conducted (i.e., 1989, 1992 and 1996).

Compared to 1989, attitudes toward punishment have become more severe: while 32% of Canadians chose imprisonment as the most appropriate sentence in 1989, 43% expressed this choice in 1996. Accordingly, fewer Canadians chose community service orders in 1996 (30% versus 39% in 1989) or fines (8% versus 11%) (van Dijk and Mayhew, 1996).

METHODOLOGY

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey – The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, in co-operation with the policing community, collects police-reported crime statistics through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey. The UCR survey produces a continuous historical record of crime and traffic statistics reported by every police agency in Canada since 1962. UCR data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. Information collected by the survey includes the number of criminal incidents, the clearance status of those incidents and information on persons charged. When an incident involves more than one offence, the incident is counted according to the most serious offence.

¹⁶ Based on data from the Adult Criminal Court Survey. Data are collected from courts in nine jurisdictions. Forty percent of these B&E cases originate from Ontario and 32% from Quebec. These cases represent those where B&E is the most serious offence in the case. Please refer to the methodology section for more details.

Revised UCR Survey – In 1984, the UCR survey was re-developed to expand the information collected. This new survey, called the Revised UCR survey, is a micro-data survey that allows detailed examinations of accused and victim characteristics, as well as characteristics of the incident itself. As with the aggregate UCR Survey, when an incident involves more than one offence, the incident is counted according to the most serious offence. Detailed information in this *Juristat* on incidents of B&E and persons charged is based on the results of this survey. In 1996, there were 154 police agencies from six provinces reporting to the Revised UCR survey. The incidents contained in the 1996 Revised UCR data base are distributed as follows: 39% from Quebec, 38% from Ontario, 10% from Alberta, 8% from British Columbia, 4% from Saskatchewan, and 1% from New Brunswick. Data from this non-representative sample are mostly from urban areas and account for 47% of the national volume of crime.

The Revised UCR Survey Time Series Data base is a subset of the data collected by the Revised UCR Survey. It contains detailed information on incidents, accused persons and victims reported by a sample of 61 police agencies that reported consistently to the Revised UCR Survey from 1993 to 1996. The incidents reported by these agencies, which include Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, are distributed as follows: 42% from Quebec, 36% from Ontario, 14% from British Columbia, 7% from Saskatchewan, and 1% from New Brunswick. In total, these incidents account for 29% of the national volume of crime. These data are not nationally representative. The time series information on home invasions in this report is based on findings from this data base.

1996 International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) – The ICVS is a survey on criminal victimization that was conducted in over 30 countries worldwide, including industrialized and developing countries. It was coordinated by the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands and the United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute. In Canada, the survey was funded by the Department of Justice, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and the Ministry of the Solicitor General. A total of 2,134 persons aged 16 years or older were randomly selected across Canada and were interviewed by telephone about their experiences with crime during 1995, their reasons for reporting or not reporting to police, their feelings of safety, security measures taken, and their perception of the justice system.

Youth Court Survey – This survey is a census of *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences heard in youth court for youths aged 12 to 17 (up to the 18th birthday) at the time of the offence. Where there are multiple charges in a case, cases are classified according to the most serious charge. For more details on the Youth Court Survey, please refer to *Youth Court Statistics 1995-96* (catalogue 85-522-XPB).

Analysis on youth recidivism excludes data from Nova Scotia because of the way court systems are structured in that province. The definition of a repeat offender in this report is a young person who was found guilty of B&E (most serious charge) during 1995-96 and had been previously convicted in a youth court since 1986-87 of at least one other federal

statute charge. Cases were matched using the youth's identification code, sex, date of birth and province of conviction. It should be noted that previous convictions for violations under the *Young Offenders Act* and administrative offences under the *Criminal Code* (e.g. failure to appear, failure to comply with a probation order) are excluded from this analysis. These were excluded in order to focus the analysis on those instances where a young offender, having previously been convicted and punished for committing a criminal act, commits another offence independent of the administrative process.

Due to the limitation in the methodology used to identify young persons and their prior convictions, these data on recidivism are a conservative estimate. Variations in youth court coding practices, the undetected use of aliases, and the movement of offenders among provinces and territories may have resulted in some cases of recidivism being captured as first-time offenders. As well, these data on recidivism do not consider any previous participation in Alternative Measures or any other court diversion program.

Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) – This survey is intended to be a census of federal and provincial/territorial statute charges and municipal by-law infractions heard in provincial criminal courts in Canada. The ACCS collects detailed data on completed charges, appearances and cases for federal statute charges, and aggregate data on completed and pending charges, appearances and cases for both federal and provincial statutes and municipal by-law offences.

Coverage limitations may have an impact on the final dispositions reported by the ACCS. The absence of national coverage for provincial/territorial courts, and the lack of data from municipal, superior and appeal courts represent current limitations of the survey. Moreover, not all provincial/territorial

court locations in participating jurisdictions are reporting to the survey. Quebec's 140 municipal courts do not report to the survey and it is estimated that 20% of federal statute charges in Quebec are heard in these courts. The ACCS currently collects data from provincial criminal courts in nine jurisdictions: Newfoundland (10 courts); Prince Edward Island (5 courts); Nova Scotia (38 courts); Quebec (54 courts); Ontario (92 courts); Saskatchewan (16 courts); Alberta (104 courts); Yukon (18 courts); and, the Northwest Territories (66 courts). The *most serious offence* rule applies where a case includes more than one charge. Please refer to "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1995-96" *Juristat* Vol.17, No. 6 (catalogue 85-002 XPE) for more details.

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Table 1



Breaking and entering in Canada, 1986-1996

	Population ¹	Total			Residential			Business			Other		
		Number	Rate ²	Annual % change in rate ³	Number	Rate ²	Annual % change in rate ³	Number	Rate ²	Annual % change in rate ³	Number	Rate ²	Annual % change in rate ³
1986	26,203,800	365,140	1,393	1.3	217,675	831	1.0	101,536	387	1.7	45,929	175	2.3
1987	26,549,700	364,144	1,372	-1.6	219,324	826	-0.6	99,733	376	-3.1	45,087	170	-3.1
1988	26,894,800	359,198	1,336	-2.6	214,101	796	-3.6	101,377	377	0.3	43,720	163	-4.3
1989	27,379,300	348,430	1,273	-4.7	200,836	734	-7.9	102,886	376	-0.3	44,681	163	0.4
1990	27,790,600	379,364	1,365	7.3	215,284	775	5.6	117,399	422	12.4	46,681	168	2.9
1991	28,120,100	434,602	1,546	13.2	246,716	877	13.3	134,432	478	13.2	53,454	190	13.2
1992	28,542,200	427,153	1,497	-3.2	245,453	860	-2.0	128,514	450	-5.8	53,186	186	-2.0
1993	28,946,800	406,421	1,404	-6.2	239,322	827	-3.9	115,757	400	-11.2	51,342	177	-4.8
1994	29,255,600	387,867	1,326	-5.6	227,199	777	-6.1	110,480	378	-5.6	50,188	172	-3.3
1995 ^c	29,615,300	390,682	1,319	-0.5	235,129	794	2.2	108,749	367	-2.8	46,804	158	-7.9
1996	29,963,600	396,085	1,322	0.2	242,132	808	1.8	110,073	367	-	43,880	146	-7.3

- nil or zero.

^c revised.

¹ Population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates from 1986-1990; final postcensal estimates for 1991 and 1992; updated postcensal estimates for 1993, 1994 and 1995; preliminary postcensal estimates for 1996.

² Rate of incidents per 100,000 population.

³ Percentage changes based on non-rounded rates.

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

Table 2



Breaking and entering by province/territory, 1991-1996

Province/territory	1991 ¹	1992	1993	1994	1995 ^r	1996	Percent change in rate 1995-1996 ²	Percent change in rate 1991-1996 ²
Newfoundland								
number	5,698	5,134	4,089	4,185	3,924	4,223		
rate*	982	880	700	720	681	740	8.7	-24.6
Prince Edward Island								
number	1,417	1,472	1,172	1,023	1,094	1,091		
taux*	1,083	1,119	880	760	807	795	-1.5	-26.7
Nova Scotia								
number	11,733	10,664	9,378	8,774	8,836	9,502		
rate*	1,278	1,153	1,008	940	942	1,008	7.0	-21.2
New Brunswick								
number	6,910	7,022	7,404	6,485	6,696	6,882		
rate*	923	933	980	856	881	903	2.5	-2.2
Quebec								
number	128,430	124,915	115,754	103,326	102,874	106,286		
rate*	1,814	1,744	1,599	1,418	1,401	1,438	2.7	-20.7
Ontario								
number	127,798	122,666	120,579	118,417	123,195	120,469		
rate*	1,220	1,152	1,115	1,083	1,110	1,071	-3.6	-12.3
Manitoba								
number	19,556	18,338	19,146	20,285	16,504	16,532		
rate*	1,758	1,641	1,703	1,796	1,452	1,446	-0.4	-17.8
Saskatchewan								
number	17,369	18,426	16,847	17,324	18,114	18,433		
rate*	1,726	1,828	1,667	1,712	1,782	1,803	1.2	4.4
Alberta								
number	43,626	43,854	38,735	33,781	31,003	31,326		
rate*	1,677	1,657	1,442	1,244	1,127	1,123	-0.3	-33.0
British Columbia								
number	68,976	72,046	70,720	71,845	75,688	78,622		
rate*	2,041	2,072	1,978	1,957	2,011	2,039	1.4	-0.1
Yukon Territory								
number	508	582	616	573	776	760		
rate*	1,746	1,921	2,026	1,929	2,561	2,413	-5.8	38.2
Northwest Territories								
number	1,979	2,034	1,981	1,849	1,978	1,959		
rate*	3,228	3,249	3,110	2,858	3,006	2,941	-2.2	-8.9
Canada								
number	434,602	427,153	406,421	387,867	390,682	396,085		
rate*	1,546	1,497	1,404	1,326	1,319	1,322	0.2	-14.5

* Rate per 100,000 population. Population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Populations as of July 1st: final postcensal estimates for 1991 and 1992; updated postcensal estimates for 1993, 1994 and 1995; preliminary postcensal estimates for 1996.

^r revised.

¹ For 1991, the sum of the numbers for the provinces and territories will not equal the number for Canada because, prior to 1992, data from the CN and CP police were submitted as a whole and not according to jurisdiction.

² Percentage changes based on non-rounded rates.

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

Table 3


Residential and business breaking and enterings by province/territory, 1996

	Residential B&E			Business B&E		
	1996	% change in rate 1995-1996 ¹	% change in rate 1991-1996 ¹	1996	% change in rate 1995-1996 ¹	% change in rate 1991-1996 ¹
Newfoundland						
number	2,478			1,149		
rate*	434	28.3	2.7	201	-14.5	-44.3
Prince Edward Island						
number	539			399		
rate*	393	1.2	6.8	291	-6.2	-47.6
Nova Scotia						
number	5,450			2,253		
rate*	578	14.1	-17.7	239	3.4	-40.0
New Brunswick						
number	3,825			2,039		
rate*	502	2.5	2.7	267	0.8	-9.7
Quebec						
number	75,092			26,384		
rate*	1,016	4.1	-10.9	357	6.2	-25.5
Ontario						
number	72,336			35,114		
rate*	643	-1.5	-5.0	312	-7.8	-26.7
Manitoba						
number	9,480			3,878		
rate*	829	2.2	-18.9	339	-1.5	-22.3
Saskatchewan						
number	11,376			4,284		
rate*	1,113	9.5	19.1	419	-7.5	-19.1
Alberta						
number	15,841			10,449		
rate*	568	-3.7	-35.0	375	0.2	-34.3
British Columbia						
number	44,478			23,055		
rate*	1,154	0.8	4.0	598	8.7	-4.9
Yukon						
number	421			228		
rate*	1,337	-0.3	63.4	724	19.8	6.4
Northwest Territories						
number	816			841		
rate*	1,225	-3.3	-13.0	1,263	-3.7	1.1
Canada						
number	242,132			110,073		
rate*	808	1.8	-7.9	367	-	-23.1

- nil or zero.

* Rate per 100,000 population. Population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division.

Populations as of July 1st: final postcensal estimates for 1991; updated postcensal estimates for 1995; preliminary postcensal estimates for 1996.

¹ Percentage changes based on non-rounded rates.

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

Table 4


Breaking and entering by Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), 1996

CMA	Population ¹	Breaking and enterings	Rate per 100,000 population	Percent change in rate 1995-1996 ²	Percent change in rate 1991-1996 ²
Population 500,000 and over					
Vancouver	1,883,679	47,272	2,510	3.0	4.8
Québec	699,035	10,723	1,534	17.1	-17.3
Montréal	3,365,160	50,507	1,501	-0.2	-25.7
Winnipeg	680,285	10,148	1,492	-2.6	-23.1
Ottawa-Hull (Ont. part)	781,147	11,369	1,455	-15.9	9.5
Calgary	853,711	10,380	1,216	4.3	-30.0
Edmonton	890,771	10,750	1,207	-2.1	-42.2
Hamilton	657,230	6,674	1,015	2.6	-14.3
Toronto	4,410,269	36,300	823	-4.1	-22.0
Population 250,000 to 499,999³					
Ottawa-Hull (Que. part)	258,160	3,954	1,532	5.5	-15.3
St. Catharines-Niagara ⁴	422,608	5,868	1,389	-5.8	-6.2
Halifax	344,135	4,378	1,272	4.6	-28.6
Victoria	315,168	3,911	1,241	-10.2	-15.5
London	420,614	4,904	1,166	-15.9	-18.8
Kitchener ⁴	427,054	4,827	1,130	14.8	-14.0
Windsor	294,063	2,973	1,011	28.6	-33.3
Population 100,000 to 249,999					
Regina	199,243	6,045	3,034	-3.5	-0.3
Saskatoon	223,524	4,693	2,100	4.9	22.6
Sudbury	166,661	2,543	1,526	-8.2	-35.4
Sherbrooke	148,925	2,267	1,522	-3.1	-36.8
Thunder Bay	130,006	1,971	1,516	-20.4	-16.1
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	167,854	2,368	1,411	-6.8	-17.2
Trois-Rivières	142,028	1,735	1,222	7.7	-27.7
Saint John	129,380	1,566	1,210	18.3	27.3
St. John's	175,249	1,684	961	21.0	-24.8
Canada	29,963,600	396,085	1,322	0.2	-14.5

¹ Population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demography Statistics, Demography Division.

Population estimates as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 1996.

² Percentage changes based on non-rounded rates.

³ The Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this table due to methodological concerns with the matching of the police force jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

⁴ Populations have been adjusted to match the police force's jurisdictional boundaries.

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

Table 5

Residential and business breaking and enterings by Census Metropolitan Area, 1996

	Residential B&E				Business B&E			
	1996 number	1996 rate ¹	% change in rate 1995-1996 ²	% change in rate 1991-1996 ²	1996 number	1996 rate ¹	% change in rate 1995-1996 ²	% change in rate 1991-1996 ²
Population 500,000 and over								
Vancouver	26,129	1,387	1.2	1.0	14,692	780	15.3	13.3
Québec	7,396	1,058	21.3	-13.8	2,446	350	17.1	-22.4
Montréal	35,512	1,055	1.6	-18.8	12,901	383	1.3	-29.2
Winnipeg	6,050	889	0.4	-25.7	2,052	302	-5.4	-27.0
Ottawa-Hull (Ont. part)	7,933	1,016	-8.8	22.8	3,004	385	-29.4	-15.0
Calgary	5,610	657	2.1	-12.5	3,635	426	11.4	-32.9
Edmonton	5,388	605	-6.3	-54.2	3,264	366	-7.8	-40.1
Hamilton	4,005	609	9.6	-7.5	1,355	206	-14.1	-32.9
Toronto	21,586	489	-1.6	-14.7	13,554	307	-7.6	-30.2
Population 250,000 to 499,999³								
Ottawa-Hull (Que. part)	2,854	1,106	8.1	-8.5	806	312	18.5	-9.5
St. Catharines-Niagara ⁴	3,447	816	-9.2	-1.9	1,808	428	3.8	-13.1
Halifax	2,617	760	16.7	-31.3	1,092	317	-0.9	-36.9
Victoria	2,443	775	-4.9	9.9	899	285	-22.6	-48.4
London	2,658	632	-14.2	-24.7	1,761	419	-18.9	-15.2
Kitchener ⁴	3,010	705	13.0	3.3	1,477	346	5.8	-35.0
Windsor	1,776	604	34.2	-36.6	889	302	31.5	-32.8
Population 100,000 to 249,999								
Regina	4,268	2,142	6.0	16.0	1,242	623	-22.5	-25.4
Saskatoon	3,256	1,457	15.0	37.9	868	388	3.0	-15.3
Sudbury	1,344	806	-7.2	-31.2	509	305	-0.4	-61.1
Sherbrooke	1,685	1,131	-3.8	-37.3	550	369	7.4	-10.8
Thunder Bay	1,039	799	-24.8	-24.2	368	283	-17.2	-43.6
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	1,728	1,029	-6.5	-5.1	593	353	1.2	-25.4
Trois-Rivières	1,254	883	8.1	-2.8	440	310	6.7	-33.5
Saint John	1,060	819	25.6	68.4	415	321	3.2	-6.5
St. John's	1,179	673	33.3	15.5	418	239	10.3	-52.6
Canada	242,132	808	1.8	-7.9	110,073	367	-	-23.1

- nil or zero.

¹ Population estimates provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demography Statistics, Demography Division.

Population estimates as of July 1st: preliminary postcensal estimates for 1996.

² Percentage changes based on non-rounded rates.

³ The Oshawa Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) is excluded from this table due to methodological concerns with the matching of the police force jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries.

⁴ Populations have been adjusted to match the police force's jurisdictional boundaries.

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

Table 6



Persons charged with breaking and entering¹, Canada, 1986-1996

	Total persons charged	Adults (18 years and older)			Youths (12 to 17 years)			Males			Females		
		number	% change	% of total	number	% change	% of total	number	% change	% of total	number	% change	% of total
1986	66,175	38,804	..	58.6	27,371	..	41.4	63,125	..	95.4	3,050	..	4.6
1987	64,002	38,681	-0.3	60.4	25,321	-7.5	39.6	60,943	-3.5	95.2	3,059	0.3	4.8
1988	61,265	37,371	-3.4	61.0	23,894	-5.6	39.0	58,230	-4.5	95.0	3,035	-0.8	5.0
1989	55,297	33,142	-11.3	59.9	22,155	-7.3	40.1	52,340	-10.1	94.7	2,957	-2.6	5.3
1990	59,558	35,492	7.1	59.6	24,066	8.6	40.4	56,284	7.5	94.5	3,274	10.7	5.5
1991	66,120	39,219	10.5	59.3	26,901	11.8	40.7	62,622	11.3	94.7	3,498	6.8	5.3
1992	62,976	38,229	-2.5	60.7	24,747	-8.0	39.3	59,323	-5.3	94.2	3,653	4.4	5.8
1993	55,570	33,623	-12.0	60.5	21,947	-11.3	39.5	52,310	-11.8	94.1	3,260	-10.8	5.9
1994	50,099	30,107	-10.5	60.1	19,992	-8.9	39.9	46,921	-10.3	93.7	3,178	-2.5	6.3
1995	46,719	28,065	-6.8	60.1	18,654	-6.7	39.9	43,432	-7.4	93.0	3,287	3.4	7.0
1996	46,229	27,901	-0.6	60.4	18,328	-1.7	39.6	42,938	-1.1	92.9	3,291	0.1	7.1

.. Not applicable.

¹ Reflects the number of persons charged in incidents where the most serious offence was breaking and entering.

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

Table 7



Number of youth court cases of breaking and entering¹, by most significant disposition, 1992-93 to 1995-96

	Total		Secure custody		Open custody		Probation		Fine		Community Service		Absolute discharge		Other	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
1992-1993	12,454	100	2,153	17.3	2,692	21.6	5,835	46.9	132	1.1	1,217	9.8	120	1.0	305	2.4
1993-1994	11,330	100	2,022	17.8	2,464	21.7	5,113	45.1	140	1.2	1,228	10.8	101	0.9	262	2.3
1994-1995	10,199	100	1,987	19.5	2,288	22.4	5,325	52.2	83	0.8	353	3.5	88	0.9	75	0.7
1995-1996	9,463	100	1,711	18.1	2,010	21.2	5,253	55.5	59	0.6	283	3.0	59	0.6	88	0.9

¹ most significant charge.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Table 8

Youth court cases with convictions in 1995-96 by number of prior convictions for any federal offence

		Cases of B&E ¹						Cases involving other property crimes ¹ , excluding B&E					
		Total cases ²	First-time offender	1 Prior	2 Priors	3+ Priors	Total with priors	Total cases ²	First-time offender	1 Prior	2 Priors	3+ Priors	Total with priors
Male	number	6,990	3,911	1,454	739	886	3,079	15,186	8,368	3,414	1,603	1,801	6,818
	%	100	56.0	20.8	10.6	12.7	44.0	100	55.1	22.5	10.6	11.9	44.9
Female	number	637	470	96	41	30	167	3,691	2,574	718	228	171	1,117
	%	100	73.8	15.1	6.4	4.7	26.2	100	69.7	19.5	6.2	4.6	30.3
Total	number	7,627	4,381	1,550	780	916	3,246	18,877	10,942	4,132	1,831	1,972	7,935
	%	100	57.4	20.3	10.2	12.0	42.6	100	58.0	21.9	9.7	10.4	42.0

¹ Where this offence is the most serious charge in the case.

² The number of total cases involving repeat offenders is less than the total number of cases with convictions published in Table 7 and in Youth Court Statistics, 1995-96 (catalogue 85-522-XPB) for three reasons: these data exclude data from Nova Scotia; these data exclude cases where previous convictions were offences against the administration of justice; and, these data are calculated based on the date of disposition and not the date of first appearance in court, meaning that charges in more than one case may have been disposed on the same day. Please refer to the methodology section for more details.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Table 9

Youth court cases with convictions in 1995-96 by most significant disposition

		Cases of B&E ¹					Cases involving other property crimes ¹ , excluding B&E				
		First-time offender	1 Prior	2 Priors	3+ Priors	Total with priors	First-time offender	1 Prior	2 Priors	3+ Priors	Total with priors
Secure custody	number	284	281	248	475	1,004	290	336	319	669	1,324
	%	6.5	18.1	31.8	51.9	30.9	2.7	8.1	17.4	33.9	16.7
Open custody	number	492	407	236	257	900	585	603	396	516	1,515
	%	11.2	26.3	30.3	28.1	27.7	5.3	14.6	21.6	26.2	19.1
Probation	number	3,321	774	267	158	1,199	7,252	2,271	769	549	3,589
	%	75.8	49.9	34.2	17.2	36.9	66.3	55.0	42.0	27.8	45.2
Other	number	284	88	29	26	143	2,815	922	347	238	1,507
	%	6.5	5.7	3.7	2.8	4.4	25.7	22.3	19.0	12.1	19.0
Total ²	number	4,381	1,550	780	916	3,246	10,942	4,132	1,831	1,972	7,935
	%	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹ Where this offence is the most serious charge in the case.

² The number of total cases involving repeat offenders is less than the total number of cases with convictions published in Table 7 and in Youth Court Statistics, 1995-96 (catalogue 85-522-XPB) for three reasons: these data exclude data from Nova Scotia; these data exclude cases where previous convictions were offences against the administration of justice; and, these data are calculated based on the date of disposition and not the date of first appearance in court, meaning that charges in more than one case may have been disposed on the same day. Please refer to the methodology section for more details.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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