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CANADIAN CRIME STATISTICS, 1997

by Rebecca Kong

Highlights

- In 1997, Canada's police-reported crime rate decreased for the sixth year in a row, falling 5%. This resulted in the lowest rate since 1980.
- The rate of violent crime declined for the fifth consecutive year, down 1.1% in 1997. These recent declines follow 15 years of consecutive increases.
- Rates decreased for almost all violent offences, including sexual assault (-0.9%), robbery (-8%) and homicide (-9%). There were 581 homicides in 1997, 54 fewer than in the previous year.
- Property crime dropped 8%, continuing the general decline evident since 1991 and marking the largest year-over-year decrease since these statistics were first collected in 1962.
- After steadily increasing for over a decade, the rate of motor vehicle theft finally turned downward (-3%). A decline in the rate of residential breaking and entering (-5%) followed two years of growth.
- The rate of youths charged with *Criminal Code* offences fell 7%, continuing the general decline seen since 1991. This drop was due to a large decrease in the rate of youths charged with property crime (-12%). The rate of youths charged with violent offences declined (-2%) for the second year in a row.
- Rates of violent crime decreased in 16 of the 25 census metropolitan areas (CMAs). Rates were lowest in Sherbrooke and Trois-Rivières and highest in Thunder Bay and Regina. Regina also reported the largest increase in violent crime in 1997 (+29%).
- Only three CMAs reported an increase in the rate of property crime in 1997: Chicoutimi-Jonquière (+10%), Halifax (+1.6%) and Trois-Rivières (+1.2%). Rates were highest in Regina and Vancouver and lowest in Saint John (New Brunswick) and Québec.



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Introduction

Every year since 1962, Canada's police agencies have reported criminal incidents that come to their attention to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey. This report is an examination of the 1997 reported crime. Data are presented within the context of both short and long term trends.

Analyses in this report focus on trends in violent crime, property crime, impaired driving offences, drug offences and youth crime. Crime rates are examined at the national, provincial/territorial and major metropolitan levels. The trend in Canada's crime rate is put into perspective by comparing it with crime trends in other industrialized countries.

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Canada's police agencies and of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police in making this report possible.

Interpreting police-reported crime data

Data on incidents that come to the attention of police are captured and forwarded to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) according to a nationally-approved set of common scoring rules 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; and, the impact of new initiatives such as changes in legislation, policies or enforcement practices.

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. Estimates of unreported crime are available from victimization surveys, such as the 1993 General Social Survey (GSS)¹ and the 1995 International Criminal Victimization Survey (ICVS).² Mirroring the trends in police-reported data, results from victimization surveys show recent decreases in criminal victimization among Canadians. Overall, victimization rates in Canada fell 11% between 1991 and 1995 compared to a 14% decrease in the police-reported crime rate.

While under-reporting to police can negatively affect official crime statistics, the opposite is also true: as the tolerance 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 have lowered society's tolerance for these behaviours which, in turn, may encourage victims and witnesses to report to police.

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. For example, during the processing of Toronto's 1997 crime data, an error was identified that affected crime counts back to 1996. After working closely with Toronto Police, the problem was resolved and the 1996 data were revised accordingly. Please refer to the methodology section for more details on revisions to 1996 data.

In addition, concerns have been raised that tighter budgets are diminishing the ability of some police agencies to respond to, and document, all incidents reported

¹ *The General Social Survey is conducted by Statistics Canada. See "Trends in Criminal Victimization, 1988-1993" by Rosemary Gartner and Anthony Doob in Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002, vol. 14, no. 13).*

² *For further information, refer to "Criminal Victimization: An International Perspective" by Sandra Besserer in Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002XPE/F, vol. 18, no. 6). See the methodology section at the end of this report for a brief description of the survey.*

to them, a situation that may also result in a loss of UCR coverage. While it has been suggested that this may have contributed to the recent declines in the crime rate, these decreases have applied equally to serious crimes (those which are less prone to non-recording by police) and to less serious crimes. Moreover, a comparison of trends among police agencies shows that agencies across all provinces/territories have been experiencing decreases in crime.

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.

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

Some police agencies attribute recent declines in local crime rates to community-based policing or to new strategies initiated to reduce certain crimes. The concept of community-based policing revolves around the idea that police should move toward a proactive approach, including working with individuals and businesses in the community to address community problems and concerns. Critics, however, suggest that rates of reporting to police may decrease as some community-based policing programs require complainants to appear in person at the community police centres to file a report. On the other hand, focusing on community problems may result in improved police responses to minor violations or in increased reporting by members of the community, both of which can increase a police agency’s crime statistics. While community-based policing can have an impact on police-reported crime statistics, the direction and size of the impact are difficult to assess. Aside from community policing, some police agencies attribute declines in certain crimes to improved case management and new approaches to resolving and preventing crime.

Key terminology and definitions

Throughout this report, the terms “crime” and “crime rate” refer to total police-reported *Criminal Code* “actual” incidents, excluding traffic crime, unless noted otherwise. “Actual” incidents are those which have been substantiated through police investigation. It is also important to note that, 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 incidents, whereas non-violent crime counts reflect the number of incidents or occurrences of crime. Crime rates are based on 100,000 population (see Table 9 for population estimates used). Please refer to the Methodology section for further details on the UCR survey.

1997 Crime Trends

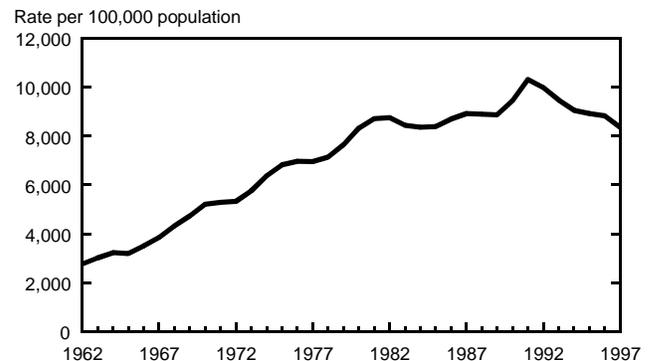
Lowest crime rate since 1980

Of the 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic incidents) reported in 1997, 12% were violent crimes, 58% were property crimes, and 30% were other *Criminal Code* crimes (e.g. mischief, prostitution, arson, bail violations, disturbing the peace). In addition, there were approximately 155,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents (mostly impaired driving), 67,000 drug incidents and 35,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g. *Excise Act*, *Immigration Act*, *Canada Shipping Act*) reported. In total, there were 2.8 million federal statute incidents reported to police (Table 5).

After peaking in the early 1990s, Canada’s crime rate has been falling steadily. In 1997, the police-reported crime rate dropped for the sixth consecutive year (-5%) (Table 1). Over these six years, the crime rate has decreased by 19%, making the 1997 rate the lowest since 1980 (Figure 1). Compared to twenty years ago, however, the 1997 crime rate is 20% higher, and it is up almost 120% from thirty years ago. Over the last few decades, amendments to Canada’s definition of criminal behaviour and changes in our tolerance for certain crimes may have influenced reporting to police.

Figure 1

Crime Rate, Canada, 1962-1997



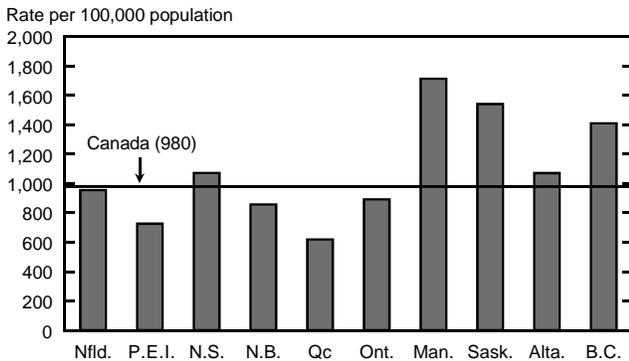
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

Crime rate down across majority of provinces and census metropolitan areas

There is considerable regional variation in the distribution of reported crime across Canada. Historically, crime rates in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec have been lower than those in Ontario, which in turn have been lower than rates in the Western provinces. Since 1993, however, this pattern has changed, with Alberta reporting much lower crime rates than its neighbouring provinces (Figures 2a, 2b). Crime rates in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory are usually higher than those in the provinces (Table 2).

Figure 2a

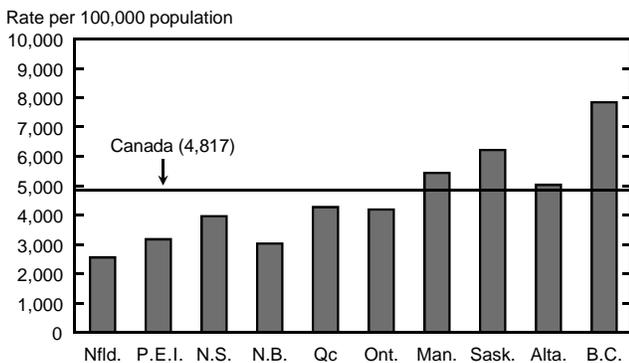
Violent crime, Canada and the provinces, 1997



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

Figure 2b

Property crime, Canada and the provinces, 1997



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

In 1997, provincial crime rates ranged from a low of 5,571 incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland to 12,870 per 100,000 in British Columbia (Table 2). Except for Saskatchewan (+4%) and Alberta (+1.8%), all other provinces followed the national trend of a declining crime rate in 1997. The crime rate in Saskatchewan has been increasing since 1994. The growth in Alberta for 1997, on the other hand, followed five years of declines, three of which were large declines. Prince Edward Island reported the largest provincial decrease in 1997 (-10%). Ontario, which accounts for almost four-tenths of Canada's population, reported a drop of 9%.

Declining crime rates were also the norm in most of the census metropolitan areas (CMAs).³ Rates grew in only 4 of the 25 CMAs: Chicoutimi-Jonquière (+5%), Saskatoon (+4%), Edmonton (+2%) and Trois-Rivières (+1.7%) (Table 3). The largest decreases were reported in Ottawa⁴ (-15%), Saint John (New Brunswick) (-13%), Vancouver (-12%) and

Québec (-12%). Rates also fell in the nation's two largest CMAs: Toronto (-8%) and Montréal (-6%) (Tables 3 and 4). Compared to five years ago, crime rates in most CMAs have fallen (Table 3). In 1997, Québec continued to report the lowest crime rate while Regina reported the highest.

Revisions to 1995 and 1996 data: Winnipeg and Toronto

Winnipeg – During 1997, the Winnipeg Police discovered an under-recording of crime that had been occurring since 1995. The problem was resolved for 1997 and Winnipeg subsequently revised their 1995 and 1996 data and re-submitted them to the CCJS. Last year, the CCJS reported that the crime rate for the Winnipeg municipal police had decreased 7% from 1995 to 1996, but with the revised 1995 and 1996 data, the decrease is only 1%. Analyses at the national, provincial and CMA level in this *Juristat* reflect these revisions.

Toronto – During the processing of 1997 data from the Metro Toronto Police, an error was uncovered that affected data back to 1996. The problem was resolved and 1996 data have been re-processed. Last year, the CCJS reported that the crime rate for the Toronto municipal police had decreased 9% from 1995 to 1996, but with the revised data, the decrease has changed to 5%. Analyses at the national, provincial and CMA level in this *Juristat* reflect these revisions to 1996 data.

For more details, please refer to the methodology section.

Crime also falling in the U.S and in England & Wales

Other countries have also experienced recent declines in their crime rates. The Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that the indexed crime⁵ rate in the United States had dropped 4% in 1997, including a 5% decrease in violent crime and a 4% decline in property crime. Decreases were reported for all indexed offences including murder (-9%), robbery (-9%), motor vehicle theft (-5%) and burglary (-3%). Moreover, the crime rate in England and Wales has fallen annually since 1992, including a 9% decrease in 1997.

While the crime rate is down, so is the number of young people in Canada

The field of criminology holds a wealth of research on factors that can influence the level of crime in society. For instance, studies of criminal behaviour suggest that young people are at higher risk of engaging in criminal activity and that the prevalence of offending increases to a peak in teenage years and then decreases during one's twenties.⁶ While Canada's crime rate has declined in recent years (i.e. 1992 to 1997), the number of persons aged 15 to 24 in the population has remained at a low point. From 1986 to 1991, the number of

³ 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.

⁴ "Ottawa" in this report refers to the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Hull CMA.

⁵ 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.

⁶ For instance, Gottfredson and Hirschi. A General Theory of Crime. Stanford U. Press:Stanford, 1990 and; Farrington, David P. "The Explanation and Prevention of Youthful Offending" in David J. Hawkins (ed.) Delinquency and Crime: Current Theories. Cambridge University, 1996, p.74.

young people in this age group dropped steadily from 4.5 million to 4.1 million, a level at which it remains today. In addition, Canada's population is ageing. Compared to 1986, the population aged 55 and older has grown from 5.1 to 6.5 million and is projected to continue growing, possibly reaching 8.1 million by the year 2006.⁷

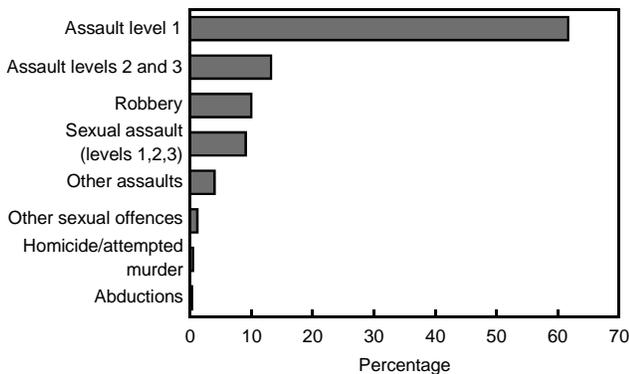
Violent Crime

Violent crime continues to drop, yet...

Violent criminal incidents (296,737 in 1997) include homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery (Figure 3). Violent crimes comprised 12% of *Criminal Code* offences in 1997, an increase from 9% a decade ago.

Figure 3

Violent crime categories, Canada, 1997



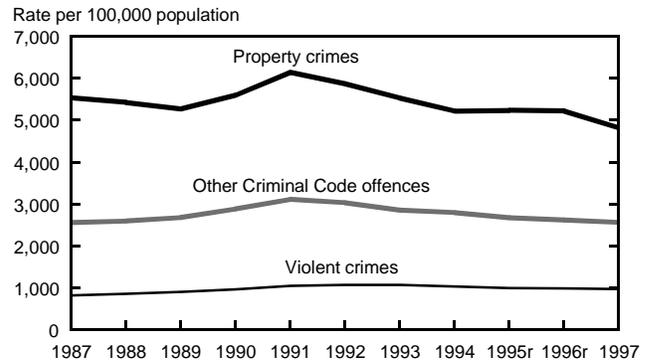
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

The violent crime rate declined by 1.1% in 1997, marking the fifth consecutive annual decrease (Table 1, Figure 4). Prior to these declines, the violent crime rate increased for 15 straight years. Much of this increase is directly attributable to a large increase in the rate of common assaults (level 1), the least serious form of assault, which accounts for 6 in 10 violent crimes. Compared to 1987, the 1997 violent crime rate is 19% higher. If the category of common assault is excluded from total violent crime, the increase drops to only 4%.

Among the provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia reported the highest rates of violent crime and Quebec the lowest (Figure 2a), a pattern consistent with previous years. The rate of violent crime grew only in Saskatchewan (+15%), Alberta (+6%) and Manitoba (+1.6%) in 1997 (Table 2). Growth in Saskatchewan was fuelled by increases in the CMAs of Regina (+29%) and Saskatoon (+7%) (Table 3). Similarly, the increase in Alberta is a reflection of increases in the CMAs of Calgary (+8%) and

Figure 4

Violent, property and other Criminal Code incidents, Canada, 1987-1997



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

Edmonton (+4%). The only other CMA to experience a notable increase in violent crime was Saint John (+10%), although the rate for New Brunswick declined. Violent crime rates decreased in 16 of the 25 CMAs, with the largest drop reported in Chicoutimi-Jonquière (-14%).

Thunder Bay reported the highest rate of violent crime (1,810 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Regina (1,638), Winnipeg (1,456), Saskatoon (1,397) and Victoria (1,385). The rate was lowest in Sherbooke (410) and Trois-Rivières (488).

...some Canadians remain fearful and concerned

Despite the recent drops in violent crime in most of the country, some Canadians remain fearful. Findings from the 1995 International Crime Victimization Survey show that 25% of Canadians reported feeling "a bit unsafe" or "very unsafe" when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. This is up from the 20% who expressed these feelings in the 1991 ICVS. However, as the rate of crime varies across the provinces, so too may the levels of fear and concern about crime.

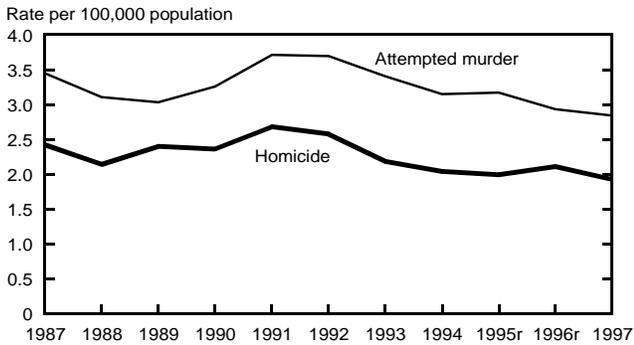
Homicides continue to decline

Homicide includes first and second-degree murder, manslaughter, and infanticide. In 1997, there were 581 homicides and 861 attempted murders (Table 5). Together these crimes continue to account for less than 1% of reported violent incidents. The homicide rate has generally been declining since the mid-1970s and is at the lowest point since 1969. In 1997, this trend continued with a 9% drop in the rate (54 fewer homicides than in 1996). The rate of attempted murders (2.8 per 100,000) also fell in 1997 (-3%), generally following the trend in the rate of murder (Figure 5).

⁷ Statistics Canada. Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1993-2016 (catalogue no. 91-520), December 1994.

Figure 5

Homicide and attempted murder incidents, Canada, 1987-1997



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

The homicide rate dropped in 14 of the 25 CMAs. Rates were highest in Saskatoon (3.59 incidents per 100,000 population), Halifax (3.15) and Edmonton (3.00), and were lowest in Chicoutimi-Jonquière (no homicides), Kitchener (0.69) and London (0.71).

The number of homicides committed with a firearm decreased 10% from the previous year. Consistent with the trend since 1979, firearm homicides accounted for one-third (33%) of all homicides in 1997. Other methods used to commit homicide included stabbing (29%), beating (20%), strangulation/suffocation (9%), smoke inhalation/burns (5%) and poisoning (1%).

As has been the case in the past, the large majority of victims knew their killers. Of the homicides where an accused was identified, 44% of the victims were killed by an acquaintance, 42% by a spouse or other family member, and 13% by a stranger.

Robberies down after increasing two years in a row

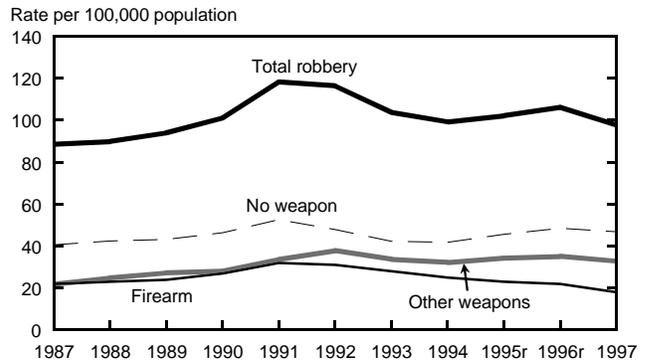
The 29,590 robberies in 1997 accounted for 1 in 10 violent crimes. After increasing two years in a row, the rate of robbery decreased 8% in 1997 (Table 5). Despite decreases in the early 1990s, the rate of robbery has been generally increasing during the last ten years, up 10% from 1987 (Figure 6).

Fewer robberies now involve firearms. The rate for this type of robbery has generally been falling since 1991, including a 20% decrease in 1997. Over these six years, the rate has dropped by 41%. Robberies involving weapons other than firearms (e.g., knives) have shown the largest rate increases in the last decade, even though the rate dropped in 1997 (-7%). Compared to ten years ago, the rate is over 50% higher, increasing an average of 5% annually. Robberies with no weapons decreased in 1997 (-3%) after two years of growth. Over 4 in 10 robberies involve no weapons.

The rate of robbery grew in only 8 of the 25 CMAs. Rates of robbery were highest in Winnipeg (295 incidents per 100,000

Figure 6

Robbery incidents, Canada, 1987-1997



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

population) and Vancouver (240), and lowest in St. John's (Newfoundland) (22), Saint John (New Brunswick) (22) and Chicoutimi-Jonquière (32).

Compared to other violent crimes, robbery is more likely to involve youths. In 1997, 38% of persons charged with robbery were youths compared with only 15% of persons charged with other violent crimes (Table 7).

1997 UCR II (Incident-based) Data File

The revised UCR survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and the incidents. The survey presently collects data from 179 police agencies in six provinces. These data represent 48% of the national volume of actual *Criminal Code* crimes. **The reader is cautioned that these data are not nationally representative:** respondents from Quebec account for 41% of the sample and those from Ontario account for a further 33%. 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.

Sexual assaults drop for the fourth straight year

Sexual assaults accounted for almost 1 in 10 violent crimes in 1997. 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). In 1997, the rate for each level of sexual assault decreased (Table 5).

There were 27,063 reported incidents of sexual assault in 1997, most of which (97%) were classified by police as level 1. In 1997, the rate of total sexual assaults decreased 0.9% (Table 5). Although this marked the fourth consecutive decline, it was much smaller than decreases reported in

previous years. While the 1997 rate was 26% lower than five years ago, it was still 6% higher than a decade ago.

Rates of sexual assault decreased in 14 of the 25 CMAs. The rate of sexual assault was highest in Saint John (New Brunswick) (198 incidents per 100,000 population) and St. John's (Newfoundland) (162), and was lowest in Sherbrooke (34) and Trois-Rivières (36).

According to a sample of police departments, the vast majority of victims of sexual assault were female (84%) (Table 6). Female victims were most frequently victimized by a casual acquaintance (33%), followed by a family member including a spouse/ex-spouse (27%) and a stranger (23%). Victims of sexual assault tended to be quite young with almost 60% of victims younger than 18 years old. The median⁸ age for females was 17 years. Male victims tended to be much younger (median age of 11 years) and were also most frequently victimized by a casual acquaintance (e.g. neighbour) (42%), a family member (29%) or a stranger (13%). Young girls (12 and under) had most frequently been sexually assaulted by a family member (49%) while boys of the same age were equally attacked by a casual acquaintance (39%) and a family member (39%).⁹

Assaults stable after three years of decline

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 other assaults). Common assault accounts for almost 8 in 10 assaults and 6 in 10 reported violent incidents. It includes behaviours such as pushing, slapping, punching, face-to-face verbal threats, and threats by an act or gesture.

In 1997, police recorded 222,210 incidents of assault levels 1, 2 and 3 (Table 5). After decreasing three years in a row, the rate of assaults remained unchanged in 1997. This stability was due to little change in the rate of common assault (-0.3%) and a small increase in assault with a weapon (+1.7%). Aggravated assault continued to decrease, falling for the sixth year in a row (-5%).

The rate of assault (levels 1, 2, 3) dropped in 15 of the 25 CMAs. Despite showing a drop of 7% in 1997, Thunder Bay reported the highest rate (1,517 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Regina (1,195). Rates were lowest in Sherbrooke (284) and Trois-Rivières (310).

Unlike sexual assaults, victims of assault were as likely to be male as female (Table 6). Females, however, accounted for more victims of common assault (53%) and males accounted for more victims of assault with a weapon and aggravated assault (66%). Overall, the median age of victims of assault was 28 years; males were somewhat younger than females (26 years compared to 29 years) (Table 6). Females had most often been assaulted by a spouse (43%) or an acquaintance

(18%). Among male victims, their assailants had most often been strangers (39%), followed by acquaintances (34%). Children under 18 years assaulted by parents accounted for 3% of all assault victims. However, the secrecy surrounding child abuse and the powerlessness of young children means that these incidents often go unreported to police.

Sample of police agencies shows presence of weapons in violent crime declining

Between 1993 and 1997, the presence of weapons in violent incidents decreased. While firearms were present in 6.8% of violent incidents reported by a sample of 61 police forces in 1993, by 1997 they were present in only 5.1%. The presence of clubs/blunt instruments declined from 7.6% to 6.5%, and the presence of knives decreased from 9.6% to 9.1%.

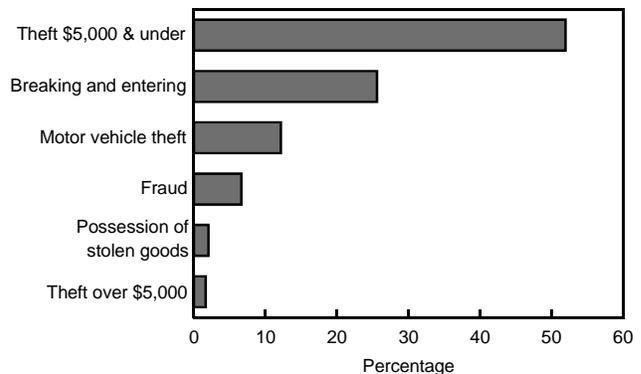
Property Crime

Property crime rate continues to drop

Property 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 examples of property crimes (Figure 7). In 1997, there were approximately 1.5 million property crime incidents. The property crime rate has generally been decreasing since 1991, including an 8% drop in 1997. The 1997 rate was 18% lower than the rate recorded five years ago and 13% lower than ten years ago (Table 1).

Figure 7

Property crime categories, Canada, 1997



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

⁸ The median value is the one in the middle when a set of values is arranged in order from highest to lowest.

⁹ For further information, refer to "Children as Victims of Violent Crime", by Robin Fitzgerald in Juristat (catalogue 85-002 XPE/F, vol. 17, no. 11).

Rates of property crime dropped in all ten provinces in 1997. Ontario (-11%), British Columbia (-11%) and Prince Edward Island (-10%) experienced the largest declines, with Alberta (-1.0%), Nova Scotia (-1.5%) and Saskatchewan (-1.7%) reporting the smallest decreases (Table 2). Despite decreasing in 1997, British Columbia's property crime rate continues to rank the highest among the provinces (Figure 2b). Newfoundland reported the lowest rate.

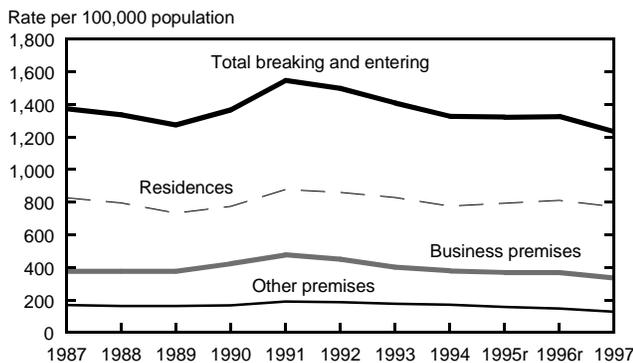
Of the 25 CMAs, all but 4 reported declines with Saint John (New Brunswick) showing the greatest drop (-18%). Declines of ten percent or more were experienced by Ottawa (-16%), Québec (-14%), Vancouver (-13%), Sudbury (-11%), Windsor (-11%) and Victoria (-10%) (Table 3). Rates increased only in Chicoutimi-Jonquière (+10%), Halifax (+1.6%) and Trois-Rivières (+1.2%); the rate for Saskatoon remained stable (-0.1%). Regina reported the highest rate of property crime, despite a decrease in 1997, and Saint John (New Brunswick) reported the lowest.

Rate of breaking and entering continues to fall

In total, there were 373,355 reported incidents of breaking and entering (B&E) in 1997, representing one-quarter of property crimes (Table 5). In general the B&E rate has been falling since 1991 (Figure 8), including a 7% decrease in 1997. Four in ten persons charged with this offence were youths (Table 7).¹⁰

Figure 8

Breaking and entering incidents, Canada, 1987-1997



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

The majority of B&Es in 1997 occurred at private residences (63%) as opposed to commercial establishments or businesses (27%), or other places (e.g. shed, storage facilities) (10%). After increasing two years in a row, the rate of residential B&E dropped in 1997 (-5%). The police-reported rate for business B&E (-10%) and other types of B&E (-13%) also declined, continuing their downward trend.

The rate of B&E increased in only 4 of the 25 CMAs in 1997: Chicoutimi-Jonquière (+22%), Trois-Rivières (+15%), Halifax (+2%) and Montréal (+0.8%). In 1997, rates were highest in

Regina (2,834 incidents per 100,000 population) and Vancouver (2,191), and lowest in Toronto (757) and Saint John (New Brunswick) (769).

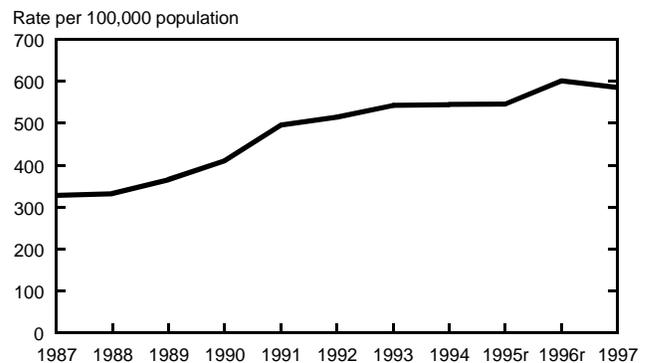
According to the Insurance Information Centre of Canada,¹¹ the average claim by home-owners and tenants for losses through B&E amounted to \$5,034 in 1996 (the most recent year for which data are available) and the average claim for commercial businesses amounted to \$5,162. In total, property losses associated with B&Es cost the insurance industry about \$398 million in 1996.

Theft of motor vehicles declines for the first time in over a decade

Motor vehicle theft accounted for roughly 1 in 8 property crimes in 1997 (177,286 incidents). After steady growth for over a decade, the rate of motor vehicle theft finally decreased in 1997 (-3%) (Figure 9). The current rate, however, is still much higher than five (+14%) and ten (+79%) years ago.¹² 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 84% between 1992 and 1996.¹³

Figure 9

Motor vehicle theft incidents, Canada, 1987-1997



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

Despite a decrease at the national level, the rate of motor vehicle theft grew in almost half of the 25 CMAs. Regina reported the highest rate (1,479 per 100,000 population), followed by Winnipeg (1,352). The lowest rates were reported by St. John's (Newfoundland) (134) and Saint John (New Brunswick) (149).

¹⁰ For further information, refer to "Breaking and Entering in Canada, 1996", by Rebecca Kong in Juristat (catalogue 85-002 XPE/F, vol. 18, no. 5).

¹¹ Members of the Insurance Information Centre of Canada represent about 80% of the total insurance industry.

¹² For further information, refer to "Motor Vehicle Theft in Canada - 1996" by Julie Sauvé in Juristat (catalogue 85-002 XPE/F, vol. 18, no. 1).

¹³ Vehicle Information Centre of Canada. "How Cars Measure Up, 1995-1996" (published 1997).

Theft of vehicles and their components cost the Canadian insurance industry approximately \$600 million in 1996 (the most recent year for which data are available) compared to \$500 million in 1995.¹⁴

As with incidents of breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft is generally described as a youth crime. In 1997, 43% of persons charged with motor vehicle theft were youths aged 12 to 17 years compared to only 22% of persons charged with all other *Criminal Code* offences (Table 7).

Thefts account for one-third of all crimes

In 1997, the 782,051 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. The 1997 theft rate was 9% lower than the previous year (Table 5) and has generally been declining since 1991.

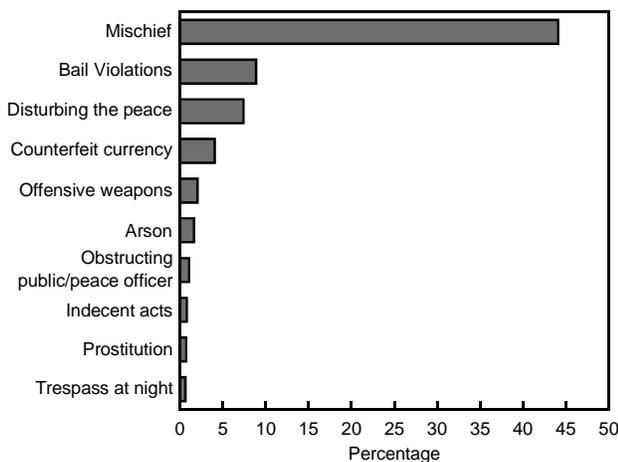
Of all thefts, 40% were thefts from motor vehicles, 13% were shoplifting, 9% were bicycle thefts, and 37% were "other" types of theft. Decreases were reported for all types of theft in 1997. Relative to other offences, a high proportion (31%) of persons charged with "theft \$5,000 and under" are female, most of whom were charged with shoplifting (Table 7).

Other *Criminal Code* Incidents

The 744,687 *Criminal Code* crimes that are not in the violent or property crime categories are reported under the category "other *Criminal Code*" (Figure 10). These crimes account for 3 in 10 *Criminal Code* incidents and include such crimes as mischief, weapons offences, prostitution, arson, bail violations and disturbing the peace.

Figure 10

Other *Criminal Code* categories, Canada, 1997



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

Offensive weapons crimes decrease

Offensive weapons crimes include possession/use of prohibited and restricted weapons, possession of a weapon for the purpose of committing a crime, and careless use of a firearm. Prohibited weapons are those which are illegal to possess. These include spring-loaded knives, nunchaku sticks, fully-automatic firearms, and sawed-off shotguns or rifles. Restricted weapons, such as handguns, are those which may be owned under certain conditions (e.g., lawful use and registration with the police). Non-restricted weapons may be possessed legally. In the case of rifles and shotguns, however, individuals are required to hold a valid firearms acquisition certificate (FAC) to acquire such guns.¹⁵

The 16,079 offensive weapons crimes reported by police in 1997 accounted for less than 1% of *Criminal Code* incidents. The rate of these incidents declined for the third consecutive year (-3%) (Table 5).

Arson down, but still higher than a decade ago

Police reported 12,799 incidents of arson in 1997 (Table 5). From 1989 to 1992, the rate of arson jumped by 70%. Since then, the rate has remained relatively stable, falling an average of 1.6% annually, including a 1.3% drop in 1997. The most common targets for arson in 1997 were motor vehicles (28%), residences (25%), non-commercial enterprises (24%) and commercial or corporate places (15%). Four in ten persons charged with arson were youths (Table 7).

The rate of mischief offences continues to decline

In 1997, the 341,687 mischief incidents reported by police accounted for 14% of total *Criminal Code* crimes and over 4 in 10 of "other" *Criminal Code* incidents (Table 5). The general decline in the rate of mischief incidents continued in 1997 with an 8% decrease. The most common targets of mischief were motor vehicles (66%). Consistent with previous years, youths aged 12 to 17 years comprised one-third of persons charged with this offence in 1997 (Table 7).

Prostitution-related incidents drop

Most prostitution-related crimes involve communicating with a person for the purpose of engaging in prostitution (including both prostitutes and clients) or stopping a vehicle for the same purpose. The rate of prostitution incidents reported by police dropped by 10% in 1997 (Table 5). Despite an increase in 1995, the rate of prostitution incidents during the 1990s has generally been decreasing. Of the different types of prostitution offences, those involving bawdy houses are the only ones to have consistently increased since 1993, including a 54% jump in the rate in 1997. This most recent growth is largely due to an increase in the province of Quebec. The reporting of prostitution incidents is highly sensitive to police enforcement practices. The reader is cautioned that these practices may vary over time and across provinces and municipalities.

¹⁴ Vehicle Information Centre of Canada.

¹⁵ Please refer to the Criminal Code of Canada for exact definitions and conditions.

In 1997, 5,884 persons were charged with prostitution-related crimes, 56% of whom were female. Although some males charged were living from the avails of prostitution or were themselves prostitutes, it can be assumed that the majority of them were clients. Only 4% of persons charged in prostitution incidents in 1997 were youths. Child prostitution is a serious concern for Canadians, and young people who come to the attention of police are often diverted to social services in lieu of being charged.¹⁶ Therefore, it is important to note that UCR counts do not reflect the actual extent of child prostitution.

Criminal Code Traffic Incidents

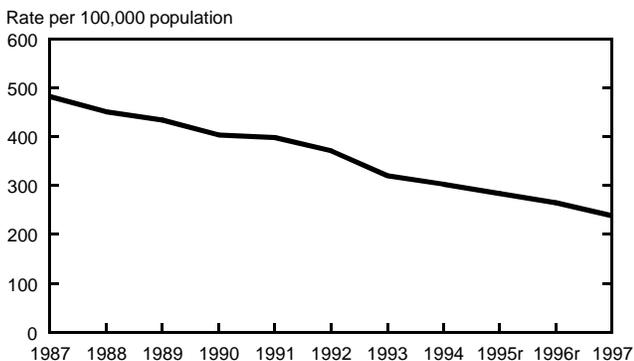
Police reported 155,327 incidents involving *Criminal Code* traffic crimes in 1997, resulting in a rate 5% below that of 1996 (Table 5). Impaired driving accounted for 58% of these incidents in 1997, failure to stop and/or remain at the scene of an accident accounted for 32%, and dangerous driving and driving while prohibited comprised the remaining 10%.

Impaired driving incidents continue to decline

Impaired driving offences include impaired operation of a motor vehicle, boat or aircraft, driving with over .08% alcohol in the bloodstream, and failing to provide a breath and/or blood sample when requested by a police officer. In 1997, police charged 72,139 persons with impaired driving, a decline of 10% below 1996, and a continuation of the long-term trend of declining rates (Figure 11). As with drug and prostitution offences, changes in statistics on impaired driving can be influenced by police enforcement.¹⁷

Figure 11

Persons charged with impaired driving, Canada, 1987-1997



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

¹⁶ For more information, see "Street Prostitution in Canada", by Doreen Duchesne in *Juristat* (catalogue 85-002-XPE/F vol.17, no.2)

¹⁷ For further information, see "Impaired Driving in Canada, 1996", by Sylvain Tremblay in *Juristat* (catalogue 85-002 XPE/F, vol. 17, no.12).

Drugs

Little change in rate of drug offences

As of 1997, all drug incidents involve offences under the new *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA). Cannabis offences accounted for 7 in 10 of the 66,521 drug-related incidents reported in 1997. Almost 9 in 10 persons charged with drug offences were adults.

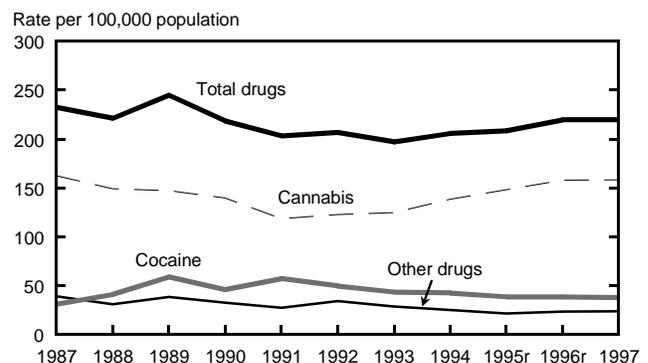
New legislation regulating drugs: *The Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*

Prior to 1997, the regulation of drugs fell under two separate federal statutes: *The Narcotics Control Act*, which dealt with illicit drugs such as cannabis, cocaine and heroin; and, the *Food and Drug Act*, which dealt with controlled and restricted drugs such as amphetamines, LSD and various prescription drugs. On May 14 1997, a new act entitled the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) was proclaimed into force, replacing the two previous acts. The CDSA consolidates certain parts of the two previous acts, modernizing and enhancing Canada's drug abuse control policy. Another focus of the CDSA is to fulfil Canada's international obligations under several international protocols on drugs.

After increasing three years in a row, the rate of drug-related incidents remained virtually unchanged in 1997 (+0.1%) (Table 5). After growing steadily since 1991 with an average annual increase of 6%, the rate of cannabis offences also remained virtually unchanged in 1997 (+0.3%), a stability which affected the overall rate of drug crimes (Figure 12). Consistent with the general downward trend since 1992, the rate of cocaine offences dropped again in 1997 (-1.6%). After a fairly large increase in 1996 (+8%), the rate of offences involving other drugs (e.g. heroin, amphetamines, barbiturates) grew just 1.0% in 1997.

Figure 12

Drug incidents, Canada, 1987-1997



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

Historically, the majority of drug incidents involve "possession" (62% in 1997) and most possession incidents involve cannabis. As with prostitution and impaired driving, trends in drug-related crimes are subject to police enforcement activities.

Youth Crime

Measuring youth crime

Young persons in conflict with the law may or may not be formally charged. The decision to proceed with the laying of a charge is influenced by many factors, one of which is the eligibility of the youth for an alternative measures program. As outlined in the *Young Offenders Act*, the objective of alternative measures (AM) is to avoid court proceedings for young persons, provided certain conditions are met. Generally, referrals to AM programs are made before charges are laid and are reserved for first time offenders.¹⁸ 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.

As a result, charge rates are influenced by the extent to which AM is used, whether AM is used at the pre- or post-charge stage, and the extent to which youths are dealt with informally. Consequently, there are limitations to using the youth charge rate as an indicator of the prevalence of youth crime, particularly with respect to measuring relatively minor offences committed by first time offenders. However, data on youths not charged (i.e., AM or dealt with informally) are available from many jurisdictions and show that the rate of youths *not* charged has also been declining since 1991. This suggests that the decrease in youths charged is not simply a reflection of increased use of alternative measures.

Decrease in rate of youths charged mostly due to fall in charges for non-violent crime

Fueled by a decrease in charges for non-violent crimes, the overall rate of youths charged with *Criminal Code* offences dropped 7% in 1997 (Table 8). In total, 111,736 youths aged 12 to 17 years were charged with *Criminal Code* offences in 1997. Over half (53%) of these youths were charged with property crimes, while 20% were charged with violent crimes. The remaining youths were charged with other *Criminal Code* offences, such as mischief and offences against the administration of justice. This distribution has changed since a decade ago when 69% of youths were charged with property crimes and 9% with violent crimes. Increases in youths charged with common (level 1) assault and decreases in charges for theft and breaking and entering account for much of this shift (Table 8).

Selected Offences	Youths charged	Adults charged
Total violent	20%	30%
Assaults	15%	26%
Robbery	3%	2%
Total property	53%	38%
Theft	26%	19%
Breaking and entering	15%	7%
Theft motor vehicle	6%	2%
Total other Criminal Code	27%	32%
Mischief	6%	4%
TOTAL CRIMINAL CODE	100%	100%

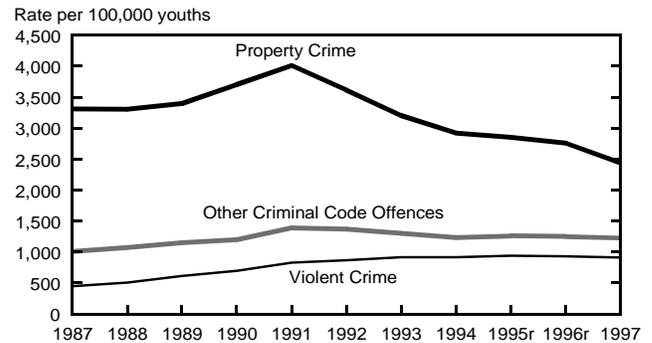
¹⁸ See "National Summary of Alternative Measures Services for Young Persons" in *Juristat* (catalogue no. 85-205, vol. 10, no. 2).

Rate of youths charged with violent crime declines for second year in a row

In 1997, the rate of youths charged with violent crime declined (-2%) for the second year in a row (Figure 13, Table 8). Compared to five years ago, the 1997 rate is 5% higher, and over twice that of a decade ago. This increase cannot simply be attributed to an increase in the rate of youths charged with common (level 1) assault.

Figure 13

Rate of Youths Charged, 1987-1997



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

In 1997, the rate of youths charged increased for homicide (+9%) and "other" types of assault (e.g. assault against police officer)(+7%). Rates changed very little for youths charged with robbery (-0.2%). The rate of youths charged with sexual assault decreased for the fourth year in a row (-7%) and the rate for those charged with assault (levels 1, 2, 3) dropped for the second year in a row (-3%). In 1997, 54 youths aged 12 to 17 years stood accused of homicide, five more compared to 1996. Between 1986 and 1996, an average of 49 youths were accused of homicide each year.

In recent years, concern has been raised about increasing violence among females, particularly young females. Over the last 10 years, the rate of female youths charged with violent crimes has increased much faster (+179%) than for male youths (+85%). In 1997, the rate of male youths charged with violent crime dropped 4% while the rate for female youths increased by 5%. However, the rate of female youths charged with violent crime (472 per 100,000 population) is still considerably lower than that for male youth (1,328).

Rate of youths charged with property crimes continues to fall

In terms of property crimes, the rate of youths charged declined (-12%) for the sixth consecutive year (Figure 13, Table 8). The rate of youths charged dropped for all property offences including thefts (-13%), breaking and entering (-9%) and motor vehicle theft (-8%).

Youths charged with other *Criminal Code* offences also decreased (-2%) in 1997 (Figure 13, Table 8). While the rate

of youths charged dropped for most of these offences such as weapons offences (-5%) and mischief (-8%), rates increased for youths charged with arson (+9%) and counterfeiting currency (+50%). The rate of adults charged with counterfeiting currency also experienced a large increase in 1997 (+68%).

Persons accused of property crimes are younger than those accused of violent crime

While persons accused¹⁹ of property crimes are likely to be young, the age range of persons accused of violent crimes is much wider. While more than 4 in 10 persons accused of property crimes were aged 13 to 20 years (Figure 14a), this age group accounted for less than one-quarter of persons accused of violent crimes (Figure 14b). The median age of

persons accused with property crimes was 21 years, compared to 29 years for those charged with violent offences.²⁰

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 and the number of actual offences (excluding those that are unfounded), the number of offences cleared by charge, the number of persons charged by sex and by an adult/youth breakdown. 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.

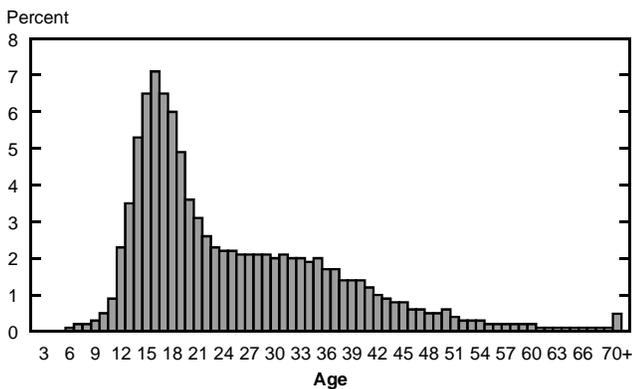
The aggregate UCR survey scores violent incidents (except robbery) differently from other types of crime. For violent crime, a separate incident is recorded for each victim (i.e. if one person assaults three people, then three incidents are recorded; but if three people assault one person, only one incident 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. persons in a bank during a robbery). For non-violent crimes, one incident (categorized according to the *most serious offence*) is counted for every distinct or separate occurrence.

2. Revised UCR Survey - (UCRII Incident-based Research File)

The revised micro data survey captures detailed information on individual criminal incidents reported to

Figure 14a

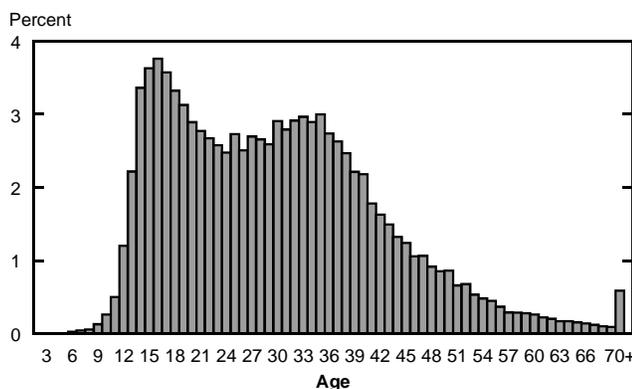
Persons accused of property crimes by age, 1997



Source: Non-random sample of 179 police agencies representing 48% of the national volume of crime. The data are not nationally representative.

Figure 14b

Persons accused of violent crime by age, 1997



Source: Non-random sample of 179 police agencies representing 48% of the national volume of crime. The data are not nationally representative.

¹⁹ Persons accused refers to those involved in incidents "cleared by charge" and "cleared otherwise".

²⁰ These median ages will differ from those presented in Table 7 as they are based on all accused, not just persons charged.

police, including characteristics of victims, accused persons and the incidents. In 1997, detailed data were collected from 179 departments in six provinces through the Revised UCR Survey. These data represent 48% of the national volume of actual *Criminal Code* crimes. The incidents contained in the 1997 Research File are distributed as follows: 41% from Quebec, 33% from Ontario, 11% from Alberta, 8% from British Columbia, 6% from Saskatchewan, and 1% from New Brunswick. Other than Quebec, the data are primarily from urban police departments. The reader is cautioned that these data are not nationally representative. Continuity with the aggregate survey data is maintained by a conversion of the incident-based data to aggregate counts at year-end.

In this report, the crime rate excludes traffic violations as these data have proven to be volatile over time. This volatility is the result of changes in police procedures that allow for traffic violations to be scored under either a provincial statute or the *Criminal Code* (e.g. failure to stop or remain at an accident).

Revisions to 1996 Toronto and Winnipeg crime statistics

The 1996 crime data from the Metro Toronto Police Department and the Winnipeg Police Department required major revisions and have changed since the release of the 1996 crime statistics in July 1997.

Toronto

During the processing of 1997 data, an error was uncovered in Toronto's data and this error affected data back to 1996. The error resulted in a significant number of valid criminal incidents being rejected by the CCJS processing system. The problem has been corrected and the 1996 data were revised.

This *Juristat* reflects the corrections to these 1996 data. It is important to note that, despite the revisions to Toronto's 1996 data, Toronto and Ontario still show a decrease in their crime rate from 1995 to 1996.

Winnipeg

During 1997, the Winnipeg Police Department discovered that a number of minor offences were not being reported to their information system and, consequently, these reports did not reach the CCJS. Winnipeg's crime data from 1995 were also affected, although to a lesser extent. This problem was corrected and the Winnipeg Police sent revised 1995 and 1996 data to the CCJS. This *Juristat* reflects the corrections made to these data.

The effect of these revisions at the municipal, provincial and national levels is presented in the table below.

The International Criminal Victimization Survey (ICVS)

The ICVS is a survey on criminal victimization that was conducted in over 30 countries worldwide in 1996, 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. The survey had previously been conducted to measure victimization rates in 1991.

	Violent crime rate % change 95-96		Property crime rate % change 95-96		Total crime rate % change 95-96	
	Released last year	Revised	Released last year	Revised	Released last year	Revised
Toronto	-11%	-4%	-6%	-4%	-9%	-5%
Ontario	-5%	-3%	-5%	-5%	-6%	-5%
Winnipeg	-5%	+9%	-6%	-3%	-7%	-1%
Manitoba	-2%	+5%	-4%	-3%	-4%	-1%
Canada	-2%	-1%	-1%	--	-2%	-1%

-- amount too small to be expressed.

Table 1


Rates of Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1986-1997¹

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995 ²	1996 ²	1997
Population ('000)	26,549.7	26,894.8	27,379.3	27,790.6	28,111.0	28,532.5	28,895.7	29,264.7	29,616.5	29,959.5	30,285.8
Violent crime rate	826	865	908	970	1,056	1,078	1,074	1,038	998	990	980
Year-to-year % change*	5.7	4.7	5.0	6.8	8.9	2.0	-0.4	-3.3	-3.8	-0.8	-1.1
Property crime rate	5,531	5,419	5,271	5,593	6,143	5,870	5,534	5,209	5,236	5,213	4,817
Year-to-year % change*	0.1	-2.0	-2.7	6.1	9.8	-4.4	-5.7	-5.9	0.5	-0.4	-7.6
Other Criminal Code rate	2,565	2,603	2,682	2,891	3,114	3,034	2,860	2,795	2,678	2,625	2,558
Year-to-year % change*	7.7	1.5	3.0	7.8	7.7	-2.6	-5.7	-2.3	-4.2	-2.0	-2.6
Total Criminal Code rate excluding traffic offences	8,923	8,887	8,860	9,454	10,313	9,982	9,467	9,042	8,913	8,828	8,355
Year-to-year % change*	2.6	-0.4	-0.3	6.7	9.1	-3.2	-5.2	-4.5	-1.4	-1.0	-5.4

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates from 1986 to 1990, final postcensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, updated postcensal estimates for 1996 and 1997.

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

² Revised. After the release of 1996 data in July 1997, an error was discovered that had resulted in an under-counting of 1996 crime for Toronto and 1995 and 1996 crime for Winnipeg. These errors were corrected and the data in this Juristat reflect the corrections. Please refer to the methodology section for more details.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 2

Selected Criminal Code Incidents,¹ Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1997

	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Qc	Ont. ²	Man. ²	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada ²
Population, 1997	562,198	137,148	946,824	761,117	7,430,997	11,421,648	1,142,169	1,021,696	2,841,328	3,921,546	31,607	67,478	30,285,800
Homicide number	6	-	24	8	132	178	30	25	60	114	1	3	581
rate	1.1	-	2.5	1.1	1.8	1.6	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.9	3.2	4.4	1.9
% change in rate*	-13.2	-100.0	32.6	-11.2	-14.7	-6.1	-33.6	-22.2	11.0	-10.6	...	-25.8	-9.5
Sexual Assault (1,2,3) number	863	142	1,167	933	3,302	9,021	1,533	1,699	3,071	4,636	113	583	27,063
rate	154	104	123	123	44	79	134	166	108	118	358	864	89
% change in rate*	9.2	-15.3	0.8	-5.5	-0.2	-5.7	-1.1	14.6	-0.8	-1.3	26.1	32.6	-0.9
Assault (1,2,3) number	4,125	779	8,088	5,044	30,342	77,630	14,882	11,801	23,099	42,817	833	2,770	222,210
rate	734	568	854	663	408	680	1,303	1,155	813	1,092	2,635	4,105	734
% change in rate*	-1.6	-14.0	-4.6	-4.6	-3.9	-2.3	1.0	16.0	8.6	-0.2	-2.6	2.5	--
Robbery number	68	17	425	145	8,224	9,272	2,136	971	2,333	5,931	27	41	29,590
rate	12	12	45	19	111	81	187	95	82	151	85	61	98
% change in rate*	32.5	-0.4	-2.4	-28.2	-16.4	-6.5	6.2	20.4	-2.3	-7.8	78.8	9.6	-7.9
Violent crime - Total number	5,370	996	10,153	6,529	45,964	101,910	19,571	15,751	30,432	55,298	1,053	3,710	296,737
rate	955	726	1,072	858	619	892	1,713	1,542	1,071	1,410	3,332	5,498	980
% change in rate*	-1.6	-11.4	-4.3	-5.7	-6.7	-2.8	1.6	15.5	5.9	-1.1	4.6	9.6	-1.1
Breaking & Entering number	3,867	895	9,193	6,108	104,092	108,066	16,837	18,791	31,144	71,942	773	1,647	373,355
rate	688	653	971	803	1,401	946	1,474	1,839	1,096	1,835	2,446	2,441	1,233
% change in rate*	-7.2	-18.5	-4.0	-11.3	-2.7	-11.7	0.3	1.5	-3.0	-10.3	1.0	-16.8	-7.0
Motor Vehicle Theft number	506	265	2,558	1,526	49,426	55,937	11,297	6,999	15,508	32,659	214	391	177,286
rate	90	193	270	200	665	490	989	685	546	833	677	579	585
% change in rate*	-7.3	26.9	5.6	2.2	2.4	-5.6	9.9	7.6	6.5	-14.2	13.1	-13.3	-2.6
Other Theft number	8,200	2,670	21,568	12,113	143,560	268,484	29,076	30,307	80,502	182,289	1,407	1,875	782,051
rate	1,459	1,947	2,278	1,591	1,932	2,351	2,546	2,966	2,833	4,648	4,452	2,779	2,582
% change in rate*	-5.5	-6.4	-0.7	-10.0	-8.3	-11.8	-13.8	-4.7	-0.1	-10.6	-5.8	-17.4	-9.1
Property crime - Total number	14,378	4,357	37,530	23,053	317,681	478,882	62,139	63,524	143,011	307,482	2,624	4,269	1,458,930
rate	2,557	3,177	3,964	3,029	4,275	4,193	5,440	6,218	5,033	7,841	8,302	6,327	4,817
% change in rate*	-5.6	-10.2	-1.5	-8.6	-4.7	-11.0	-5.5	-1.7	-1.0	-10.5	-0.3	-14.5	-7.6
Offensive weapons number	135	65	476	334	1,039	6,422	1,202	823	2,030	3,322	56	175	16,079
rate	24	47	50	44	14	56	105	81	71	85	177	259	53
% change in rate*	-18.1	40.8	-4.6	-2.4	-19.4	-5.4	-4.7	5.6	-3.6	6.8	-7.3	5.6	-3.0
Mischief number	4,723	1,638	12,788	6,355	58,700	112,022	21,879	16,985	38,906	63,295	1,004	3,392	341,687
rate	840	1,194	1,351	835	790	981	1,916	1,662	1,369	1,614	3,177	5,027	1,128
% change in rate*	-11.9	-13.5	-1.4	-18.0	-8.5	-12.3	-2.1	2.3	9.2	-12.1	9.0	22.0	-7.6
Other Criminal Code - Total number	11,572	3,967	30,013	17,723	128,507	257,114	43,333	44,571	85,871	141,923	3,029	7,064	774,687
rate	2,058	2,892	3,170	2,329	1,729	2,251	3,794	4,362	3,022	3,619	9,583	10,469	2,558
% change in rate*	-8.9	-8.7	-1.7	-6.3	-2.5	-5.9	-0.7	7.9	5.3	-4.1	12.0	5.6	-2.5
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL number	31,320	9,320	77,696	47,305	492,152	837,906	125,043	123,846	259,314	504,703	6,706	15,043	2,530,354
rate	5,571	6,796	8,206	6,215	6,623	7,336	10,948	12,122	9,127	12,870	21,217	22,293	8,355
% change in rate*	-6.2	-9.7	-2.0	-7.4	-4.3	-8.5	-2.8	3.6	1.8	-7.8	5.7	-0.2	-5.4

¹ Excludes traffic crimes.

² After the release of 1996 data in July 1997, an error was discovered that had resulted in an under-counting of 1996 crime for Toronto and 1995 and 1996 crime for Winnipeg. These errors were corrected and the data in this Juristat reflect the corrections. Please refer to the methodology section for more details.

- nil or zero

-- amount too small to be expressed

... figures not appropriate or applicable

* In comparison to the 1996 rate. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: Updated postcensal estimates for 1996 and 1997.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 3


Crime Rates for Census Metropolitan Areas¹

	Total Criminal Code ²			Violent crime			Property crime		
	1997 rate	% change in rate 1996-1997 ³	% change in rate 1992-1997 ³	1997 rate	% change in rate 1996-1997 ³	% change in rate 1992-1997 ³	1997 rate	% change in rate 1996-1997 ³	% change in rate 1992-1997 ³
Regina	14,500	-3.9	-1.3	1,638	29.1	51.3	9,129	-9.5	-2.5
Vancouver	13,029	-12.0	-18.3	1,258	-4.7	-11.7	9,080	-13.1	-9.3
Saskatoon	12,126	3.5	4.8	1,397	6.6	17.1	6,940	-0.1	-0.4
Victoria	11,434	-5.4	-13.4	1,385	1.7	9.5	6,213	-10.0	-23.2
Thunder Bay	11,259	-6.0	-23.6	1,810	-6.0	0.3	5,493	-4.0	-31.0
Winnipeg ⁴	10,281	-5.9	-5.9	1,456	-1.6	29.1	5,972	-9.0	-12.3
Halifax	9,388	-1.5	-24.4	1,126	-3.7	-15.4	5,597	1.6	-21.0
Edmonton	8,836	2.3	-29.8	960	4.0	-23.5	5,198	-0.5	87.6
London	8,652	-10.3	-17.4	809	-9.3	-19.0	5,408	-9.8	-69.2
Windsor	8,116	-7.5	-21.1	812	-7.0	-29.6	4,575	-11.2	-17.9
Ottawa-Hull (Ontario part)	8,023	-15.1	-27.0	861	-5.9	-23.2	5,030	-15.8	-24.0
Calgary	7,796	-0.9	-29.7	833	8.0	-5.4	5,221	-3.3	-32.1
Hamilton	7,608	-6.2	-17.9	1,122	-1.8	-3.5	4,406	-8.6	-16.2
St. Catharines-Niagara ⁵	7,559	-4.7	-21.1	663	0.6	-19.6	4,551	-9.7	-20.0
Montréal	7,531	-5.8	-20.6	782	-7.0	-25.1	5,126	-4.3	-20.1
Sudbury	7,505	-9.6	-27.8	890	-4.4	-17.0	4,595	-11.2	-29.0
Ottawa-Hull (Quebec part)	7,216	-8.2	-21.1	728	1.4	-2.8	4,348	-8.7	-22.0
St. John's	7,077	-4.6	-18.7	1,018	-1.2	-42.7	4,063	-1.9	-13.9
Saint John	6,980	-12.6	3.9	1,092	10.1	34.6	3,619	-17.5	-5.3
Trois-Rivières	6,662	1.7	-8.2	488	-4.4	-12.7	4,338	1.2	-10.9
Toronto ⁴	6,549	-7.6	-22.5	852	-1.4	-14.5	3,932	-9.1	-23.2
Kitchener ⁵	6,458	-7.6	-29.5	730	1.0	-20.1	4,076	-9.6	-29.2
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	6,323	5.3	-11.6	570	-13.9	-17.7	4,304	9.8	-10.6
Sherbrooke	5,853	-7.4	-34.6	410	-1.3	-14.5	3,949	-8.8	-38.1
Québec	5,664	-11.5	-23.2	504	-6.1	-12.2	3,765	-14.2	-28.1

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population. The population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final postcensal estimates for 1992; updated postcensal estimates for 1996; preliminary postcensal estimates for 1997.

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

² Includes crimes other than violent and property; excludes traffic offences.

³ Percent change based on unrounded rates.

⁴ After the release of 1996 data in July 1997, an error was discovered that resulted in the under-counting of 1996 crime for Toronto and 1995 and 1996 crime for Winnipeg. This error has been corrected and the data in this Juristat reflect the corrections. Please refer to the methodology section for more details.

⁵ Populations were adjusted to follow policing boundaries.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 4

Selected Criminal Code Incidents for Major Census Metropolitan Areas, 1997¹

	Toronto ²	Montréal	Vancouver	Edmonton	Calgary	Ottawa-Hull (Ont. part)	Québec	Winnipeg ²	Hamilton
Population, 1997	4,511,966	3,384,233	1,927,998	899,466	885,130	788,788	700,197	677,291	663,587
Homicide									
number	77	72	49	27	9	9	9	20	11
rate	1.7	2.1	2.5	3.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	3.0	1.7
% change in rate*	-4.0	0.7	-14.2	33.8	-27.8	-19.4	-40.2	-28.6	7.8
Sexual assault (1,2,3)									
number	2,583	1,554	1,579	920	583	565	306	541	601
rate	57	46	84	102	66	72	44	80	91
% change in rate*	-1.3	4.9	-0.1	-2.3	-0.9	-15.7	2.3	5.6	-9.4
Assault (1,2,3)									
number	28,509	16,705	17,339	6,125	5,401	4,945	2,327	6,845	6,141
rate	632	494	939	681	610	627	332	1,011	925
% change in rate*	-5.7	-2.6	0.3	8.1	10.2	-9.1	-4.8	-3.9	-1.0
Robbery									
number	5,915	6,305	4,632	1,075	1,028	987	630	1,995	502
rate	131	186	240	120	116	125	90	295	76
% change in rate*	-6.4	-18.8	-7.9	-8.7	9.9	1.9	-17.0	6.2	-6.3
Violent crime - Total									
number	38,439	26,450	24,262	8,632	7,371	6,795	3,529	9,864	7,447
rate	852	782	1,258	960	833	861	504	1,456	1,122
% change in rate*	-1.4	-7.0	-4.7	4.0	8.0	-5.9	-6.1	-1.6	-1.8
Break & enter									
number	34,144	51,289	42,233	10,783	9,903	9,791	8,963	10,063	6,533
rate	757	1,516	2,191	1,199	1,119	1,241	1,280	1,486	984
% change in rate*	-8.2	0.8	-12.4	-0.7	-8.3	-15.2	-16.9	-2.9	-4.1
Motor vehicle theft									
number	20,703	32,145	21,922	4,818	6,581	6,131	2,822	9,158	6,350
rate	459	950	1,137	536	744	777	403	1,352	957
% change in rate*	-10.6	2.3	-19.2	-2.5	11.7	-7.4	-7.6	8.3	3.1
Other theft									
number	106,715	80,577	103,301	25,948	26,562	21,074	12,988	19,040	14,765
rate	2,365	2,381	5,358	2,885	3,001	2,672	1,855	2,811	2,225
% change in rate*	-9.1	-8.6	-12.0	0.1	-1.4	-18.5	-13.7	-19.0	-14.3
Property crime - Total									
number	177,400	173,487	175,058	46,753	46,217	39,676	26,365	40,448	29,239
rate	3,932	5,126	9,080	5,198	5,221	5,030	3,765	5,972	4,406
% change in rate*	-9.1	-4.3	-13.1	-0.5	-3.3	-15.8	-14.2	-9.0	-8.6
Offensive weapons									
number	1,606	369	1,222	458	289	380	61	505	228
rate	36	11	63	51	33	48	9	75	34
% change in rate*	-2.7	-22.9	-2.7	4.8	-11.7	6.6	-32.5	-4.8	2.5
Mischief									
number	33,602	28,751	25,559	11,424	9,413	7,879	5,880	11,764	5,891
rate	745	953	1,326	1,270	1,063	999	840	1,737	888
% change in rate*	-14.3	-0.2	-20.0	11.3	5.9	-21.2	-7.4	-6.6	-12.6
Other Criminal Code - Total									
number	79,647	54,945	51,883	24,094	15,419	16,815	9,765	19,317	13,801
rate	1,765	1,624	2,691	2,679	1,742	2,132	1,395	2,852	2,080
% change in rate*	-7.2	-9.5	-11.5	7.5	2.7	-16.6	-5.6	-0.9	-3.2
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL excluding Traffic									
number	295,486	254,882	251,203	79,479	69,007	63,286	39,659	69,629	50,487
rate	6,549	7,531	13,029	8,836	7,796	8,023	5,664	10,281	7,608
% change in rate*	-7.6	-5.8	-12.0	2.3	-0.9	-15.1	-11.5	-5.9	-6.2

¹ Comparable data for all police services is available upon request. Rates are calculated based on 100,000 populations. The estimates are based on populations from Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The intercensal estimates match the jurisdictional boundaries of the police department.

² After the release of 1996 data in July 1997, an error was discovered that resulted in the under-counting of 1996 crimes for Winnipeg and Toronto. This error has been corrected and the data in this Juristat reflect the corrections. Please refer to the methodology section for more details.

* Compared to the 1996 rate. Percent change based on unrounded rates.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 5

Federal Statute Incidents Reported to Police, by Most Serious Offence, Canada, 1993-1997

	1993		1994		1995 ¹		1996 ²		1997		Percent change in rate 1996-1997 ³
	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	Number	Rate*	
Population ('000)	28,895.7		29,264.7		29,616.5		29,959.5		30,285.8		
Homicide	630	2	596	2	588	2	635	2	581	2	-9.5
Attempted murder	984	3	922	3	939	3	878	3	861	3	-3.0
Assaults - Total (levels 1, 2, 3)	223,754	774	222,300	760	217,618	735	219,919	734	222,210	734	--
Level 1	181,807	629	181,577	620	178,934	604	181,545	606	182,946	604	-0.3
Level 2-Weapon	38,767	134	37,725	129	35,921	121	35,626	119	36,618	121	1.7
Level 3-Aggravated	3,180	11	2,998	10	2,763	9	2,748	9	2,646	9	-4.7
Other assaults	14,749	51	14,264	49	13,462	45	12,171	41	11,778	39	-4.3
Sexual assaults - Total (levels 1, 2, 3)	34,754	120	31,706	108	28,234	95	27,026	90	27,063	89	-0.9
Level 1	33,536	116	30,572	104	27,278	92	26,076	87	26,186	86	-0.7
Level 2-Weapon	860	3	769	3	659	2	653	2	605	2	-8.3
Level 3-Aggravated	358	1	365	1	297	1	297	1	272	1	-9.4
Other sexual offences	4,171	14	3,818	13	3,494	12	3,343	11	3,672	12	8.7
Abduction	1,204	4	1,129	4	1,035	3	977	3	982	3	-0.6
Robbery - Total	29,955	104	29,010	99	30,332	102	31,797	106	29,590	98	-7.9
Firearms	8,038	28	7,361	25	6,692	23	6,737	22	5,478	18	-19.6
Other Weapons	9,720	34	9,386	32	10,127	34	10,543	35	9,933	33	-6.8
No Weapons	12,197	42	12,263	42	13,513	46	14,517	48	14,179	47	-3.4
Violent crime - Total	310,201	1,074	303,745	1,038	295,702	998	296,746	990	296,737	980	-1.1
Break & enter - Total	406,421	1,407	387,867	1,325	390,784	1,319	397,057	1,325	373,355	1,233	-7.0
Business	115,757	401	110,480	378	108,749	367	110,196	368	100,652	332	-9.6
Residential	239,322	828	227,199	776	235,129	794	242,639	810	233,844	772	-4.7
Other	51,342	178	50,188	171	46,906	158	44,222	148	38,859	128	-13.1
Motor vehicle theft	156,685	542	159,469	545	161,696	546	180,123	601	177,286	585	-2.6
Theft over \$5,000 (\$1,000 prior to 1995)	117,765	408	116,396	398	42,080	142	27,075	90	24,026	79	-12.2
Theft \$5,000 and under (\$1,000 prior to 1995)	774,293	2,680	727,414	2,486	820,908	2,772	823,732	2,749	758,025	2,503	-9.0
Possession of stolen goods	30,827	107	30,130	103	31,293	106	31,772	106	29,544	98	-8.0
Fraud	113,046	391	103,243	353	103,964	351	102,052	341	96,694	319	-6.3
Property crime - Total	1,599,037	5,534	1,524,519	5,209	1,550,725	5,236	1,561,811	5,213	1,458,930	4,817	-7.6
Mischief	415,508	1,438	396,904	1,356	380,041	1,283	365,830	1,221	341,687	1,128	-7.6
Gaming and betting	704	2	421	1	568	2	766	3	421	1	-45.6
Bail violation	66,271	229	65,952	225	66,939	226	68,949	230	68,920	228	-1.1
Disturbing the peace	54,492	189	51,213	175	51,401	174	54,563	182	57,594	190	4.4
Offensive weapons	18,584	64	18,898	65	17,571	59	16,400	55	16,079	53	-3.0
Prostitution	8,517	29	5,575	19	7,170	24	6,397	21	5,812	19	-10.1
Arson	12,470	43	13,509	46	13,156	44	12,830	43	12,799	42	-1.3
Other	249,842	865	265,473	907	256,381	866	260,601	870	271,375	896	3.0
Other Criminal Code - Total	826,388	2,860	817,945	2,795	793,227	2,678	786,336	2,625	774,687	2,558	-2.5
CRIMINAL CODE WITHOUT TRAFFIC - TOTAL	2,735,626	9,467	2,646,209	9,042	2,639,654	8,913	2,644,893	8,828	2,530,354	8,355	-5.4
Impaired driving - Total ⁴	117,574	407	107,768	368	102,285	345	96,280	321	90,099	297	-7.4
Fail to stop/remain	60,066	208	60,138	205	54,180	183	49,896	167	49,954	165	-1.0
Other C.C. traffic	20,185	70	18,529	63	17,419	59	16,286	54	15,274	50	-7.2
Criminal Code Traffic - Total	197,825	685	186,435	637	173,884	587	162,462	542	155,327	513	-5.4
CRIMINAL CODE - TOTAL	2,933,451	10,152	2,832,644	9,679	2,813,538	9,500	2,807,355	9,371	2,685,681	8,868	-5.4
DRUGS	56,817	197	60,153	206	61,613	208	65,729	219	66,521	220	0.1
OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES	48,282	167	40,525	138	36,121	122	34,274	114	35,207	116	1.6
TOTAL FEDERAL STATUTES	3,038,550	10,516	2,933,322	10,023	2,911,272	9,830	2,907,358	9,704	2,787,409	9,203	-5.2

¹ Percent change based on unrounded rates.

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

³ Rates are calculated based on 100,000 population. The population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: final postcensal estimates for 1993 to 1995; updated postcensal estimates for 1996 and 1997.

⁴ Revised. After the release of 1996 data in July 1997, an error was discovered that had resulted in an under-counting of 1996 crime for Toronto and 1995 and 1996 crime for Winnipeg. These errors were corrected and the data in this Juristat reflect the corrections. Please refer to the methodology section for more details.

-- amount too small to be expressed

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 6



Victims of Violent Crime by Age and Sex, 1997

	Sex		Age			Median Age		Total
	Males	Females	Adults	Youths (12-17 years)	Children (under 12 years)	Males	Females	
	%	%	%	%	%			
Homicide ¹	64	36	82	6	12	32	35	33
Attempted murder	75	25	92	6	2	28	30	29
Assault (levels 1, 2, 3)	52	48	79	16	5	26	29	28
Other assaults	83	17	95	4	1	31	29	30
Sexual assault (levels 1, 2, 3)	16	84	41	32	27	11	17	16
Other sexual offences	25	75	18	34	48	11	12	12
Abduction	44	56	..	17	83	6	7	7
Robbery	61	39	76	22	2	22	32	26
Criminal harassment	21	79	93	6	1	36	31	32
Kidnapping/hostage taking	37	63	80	14	6	28	25	26

¹ These data are based on the Homicide Survey, CCJS.
 .. Not applicable

Source: 1997 Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-based Research File - CCJS, representing 48% of the national volume of crime.

Table 7



Persons Charged by Age and Sex, Selected Incidents, 1997

	Sex		Age		Median Age ¹		Total
	Males	Females	Adults	Youths (12-17 years)	Males	Females	
	%	%	%	%			
Homicides ²	84	16	88	12	29	28	29
Attempted murder	89	11	91	9	29	27	28
Assaults	83	17	86	14	30	27	30
Sexual assaults (levels 1, 2, 3)	98	2	84	16	33	22	33
Other sexual offences	96	4	86	14	37	28	36
Abduction	58	42	97	3	33	32	32
Robbery	88	12	62	38	21	16	21
Violent crime - Total	85	15	84	16	29	26	29
Break and enter	92	8	60	40	20	19	20
Motor vehicle theft	90	10	57	43	19	17	19
Fraud	69	31	93	7	29	29	29
Theft over \$5,000	80	20	80	20	22	30	23
Theft \$5,000 and under	69	31	71	29	25	28	26
Property crime - Total	77	23	71	29	23	27	23
Mischief	88	12	66	34	20	25	21
Arson	88	12	57	43	19	34	19
Prostitution	44	56	96	4	34	28	31
Offensive weapons	92	8	79	21	27	25	26
Criminal Code - Total	81	19	77	23	26	27	26
Impaired driving ³	89	11	35	35	35
Cocaine - Possession	83	17	96	4	30	30	30
Cocaine - Trafficking	83	17	96	4	30	29	30
Cannabis - Possession	89	11	82	18	22	24	22
Cannabis - Trafficking	85	15	85	15	26	26	26

¹ These data are based on the 1997 Uniform Crime Reporting Incident-based Research File - CCJS, representing 48% of the national volume of crime.

² These data are based on the Homicide Survey, CCJS.

³ Includes impaired operation of a vehicle causing death, causing bodily harm, alcohol rate over 80mg., failure/refusal to provide a breath/blood sample.

... Figures not available

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 8

Youths Charged in Selected Criminal Code Incidents, Canada, 1987-1997¹

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995 ²	1996 ²	1997
Population (aged 12-17)	2,260,900	2,249,500	2,245,800	2,260,100	2,284,800	2,315,700	2,341,300	2,360,800	2,386,900	2,417,500	2,445,400
Homicide ²											
number	36	47	47	47	48	58	36	58	68	49	54
rate	1.6	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.5	1.5	2.5	2.8	2.0	2.2
% change in rate*	-13.8	31.2	0.2	-0.6	-1.0	19.2	-38.6	59.8	16.0	-28.9	8.9
Assaults (levels 1, 2, 3)											
number	6,891	7,679	9,245	10,797	12,815	13,584	14,981	15,363	15,898	15,945	15,696
rate	305	341	412	478	561	587	640	651	666	660	642
% change in rate*	13.2	12.0	20.6	16.0	17.4	4.6	9.1	1.7	2.4	-1.0	-2.7
Sexual assaults (levels 1, 2, 3)											
number	1,220	1,247	1,478	1,609	1,906	2,074	2,132	1,896	1,586	1,581	1,494
rate	54	55	66	71	83	90	91	80	66	65	61
% change in rate*	15.8	2.7	18.7	8.2	17.2	7.4	1.7	-11.8	-17.3	-1.6	-6.6
Robbery											
number	1,204	1,544	1,950	2,055	2,746	2,966	2,996	3,006	3,535	3,741	3,778
rate	53	69	87	91	120	128	128	127	148	155	154
% change in rate*	-7.1	28.9	26.5	4.7	32.2	6.6	-0.1	-0.5	16.3	4.5	-0.2
Total Violent crime											
number	10,165	11,437	13,780	15,690	18,919	20,028	21,477	21,629	22,441	22,521	22,252
rate	450	508	614	694	828	865	917	916	940	932	910
% change in rate*	10.2	13.1	20.7	13.1	19.3	4.4	6.1	-0.1	2.6	-0.9	-2.3
Break and enter											
number	25,321	23,894	22,155	24,066	26,901	24,747	21,947	19,992	18,654	18,532	17,143
rate	1,120	1,062	987	1,065	1,177	1,069	937	847	782	767	701
% change in rate*	-7.0	-5.2	-7.1	7.9	10.6	-9.2	-12.3	-9.7	-7.7	-1.9	-8.6
Motor vehicle theft											
number	5,865	6,436	7,330	7,945	8,768	8,122	8,211	7,476	6,875	7,011	6,503
rate	259	286	326	352	384	351	351	317	288	290	266
% change in rate*	-4.4	10.3	14.1	7.7	9.2	-8.6	--	-9.7	-9.0	0.7	-8.3
Theft											
number	36,397	36,368	38,897	42,514	45,221	39,648	35,301	32,228	33,762	32,473	28,537
rate	1,610	1,617	1,732	1,881	1,979	1,712	1,508	1,365	1,414	1,343	1,167
% change in rate*	-4.1	0.4	7.1	8.6	5.2	-13.5	-11.9	-9.5	3.6	-5.0	-13.1
Total Property crime											
number	74,769	74,316	76,317	83,741	91,656	83,603	74,981	68,907	68,105	66,702	59,532
rate	3,307	3,304	3,398	3,705	4,012	3,610	3,203	2,919	2,853	2,759	2,434
% change in rate*	-4.7	-0.1	2.9	9.0	8.3	-10.0	-11.3	-8.9	-2.2	-3.3	-11.8
Mischief											
number	7,832	8,643	8,491	8,647	9,725	9,066	8,214	7,687	7,745	7,695	7,150
rate	346	384	378	383	426	392	351	326	324	318	292
% change in rate*	0.2	10.9	-1.6	1.2	11.3	-8.0	-10.4	-7.2	-0.3	-1.9	-8.1
Offensive weapons											
number	1,416	1,514	1,702	1,809	2,020	1,906	1,932	1,963	1,693	1,551	1,488
rate	63	67	76	80	88	82	83	83	71	64	61
% change in rate*	-3.2	7.5	12.6	5.6	10.5	-6.9	0.3	0.8	-14.7	-9.5	-5.2
Total Other Criminal Code											
number	22,764	24,136	25,865	27,118	31,741	31,651	30,429	29,089	30,117	30,187	29,952
rate	1,007	1,073	1,152	1,200	1,389	1,367	1,300	1,232	1,262	1,249	1,225
% change in rate*	9.6	6.6	7.3	4.2	15.8	-1.6	-4.9	-5.2	2.4	-1.0	-1.9
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)											
number	107,698	109,889	115,962	126,549	142,316	135,282	126,887	119,625	120,663	119,410	111,736
rate	4,764	4,885	5,164	5,599	6,229	5,842	5,420	5,067	5,055	4,939	4,569
% change in rate*	-0.7	2.6	5.7	8.4	11.2	-6.2	-7.2	-6.5	-0.2	-2.3	-7.5

¹ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 youths. The population estimates are provided by Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates from 1987 to 1990, final postcensal estimates for 1991 to 1995, updated postcensal estimates for 1996 and 1997.

² These data are based on the Homicide Survey, CCJS.

* Percent change based on unrounded rates.

¹ Revised. After the release of 1996 data in July 1997, an error was discovered that had resulted in an under-counting of 1996 crime (and persons charged) for Toronto and of 1995 and 1996 for Winnipeg. These errors were corrected and the data in this Juristat reflect the corrections. Please refer to the methodology section for more details.

-- numbers too small to be expressed

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS.

Table 9


Population Estimates of Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1987 to 1997

Year	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Qc	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon	N.W.T.	Canada
thousands													
1987													
Total	576.5	129.0	896.3	730.5	6,805.9	9,684.9	1,100.5	1,036.4	2,443.5	3,064.6	26.0	55.7	26,549.7
Youth (12-17)	68.4	12.4	83.2	71.9	545.3	818.1	98.8	94.1	212.2	248.0	2.3	6.2	2,260.9
1988													
Total	576.2	129.7	900.2	733.1	6,860.4	9,884.4	1,104.7	1,031.7	2,463.0	3,128.2	26.9	56.3	26,894.8
Youth (12-17)	67.3	12.2	81.9	71.4	545.4	814.4	98.1	93.3	210.6	246.5	2.3	6.0	2,249.5
1989													
Total	577.4	130.6	906.7	738.0	6,948.0	10,151.0	1,106.2	1,023.0	2,504.3	3,209.2	27.4	57.5	27,379.3
Youth (12-17)	65.8	12.2	80.0	70.5	551.2	811.1	96.6	92.6	210.7	247.0	2.2	6.0	2,245.8
1990													
Total	578.9	131.0	912.5	743.0	7,020.7	10,341.4	1,108.4	1,010.8	2,556.4	3,300.1	28.0	59.4	27,790.6
Youth (12-17)	63.6	12.0	78.2	69.1	561.2	813.1	95.9	91.9	214.5	252.3	2.2	6.0	2,260.1
1991													
Total	580.3	130.8	918.0	748.5	7,079.6	10,464.2	1,112.5	1,006.3	2,601.1	3,379.3	29.1	61.3	28,111.0
Youth (12-17) ¹	61.5	12.0	77.1	68.0	573.4	817.8	95.6	92.1	219.3	259.5	2.3	6.2	2,284.8
1992													
Total	582.3	131.4	923.1	752.0	7,164.0	10,663.4	1,114.9	1,005.6	2,639.3	3,463.6	30.3	62.5	28,532.5
Youth (12-17) ¹	59.8	11.9	76.6	66.9	586.3	826.6	94.9	92.3	224.5	267.0	2.5	6.4	2,315.7
1993													
Total	584.0	132.8	929.2	754.2	7,235.5	10,805.0	1,120.4	1,007.7	2,675.7	3,557.3	30.5	63.4	28,895.7
Youth (12-17) ¹	58.0	11.8	76.0	65.4	593.2	836.3	94.4	92.8	229.7	274.6	2.6	6.4	2,341.3
1994													
Total	580.5	134.2	933.5	756.7	7,296.2	10,963.2	1,126.2	1,009.4	2,710.1	3,659.9	29.8	64.8	29,264.7
Youth (12-17) ¹	56.0	11.9	75.1	64.2	595.8	843.7	94.0	93.4	234.4	283.2	2.6	6.5	2,360.8
1995													
Total	575.4	135.3	936.6	758.6	7,348.7	11,120.8	1,132.4	1,013.0	2,745.2	3,754.0	30.5	66.0	29,616.5
Youth (12-17) ¹	54.6	11.9	75.4	63.4	591.7	859.3	94.6	94.5	240.2	292.0	2.7	6.6	2,386.9
1996													
Total	569.6	136.6	941.6	760.8	7,396.7	11,271.8	1,137.3	1,017.5	2,785.8	3,843.6	31.4	66.8	29,959.5
Youth (12-17) ¹	53.3	11.9	76.0	63.1	587.3	877.0	95.2	95.9	247.0	301.3	2.9	6.7	2,417.5
1997													
Total	562.2	137.1	946.8	761.1	7,431.0	11,421.6	1,142.2	1,021.7	2,841.3	3,921.5	31.6	67.5	30,285.8
Youth (12-17) ¹	51.9	11.8	76.6	62.7	580.2	896.6	96.2	96.8	254.0	309.0	2.9	6.8	2,445.4

¹ Note that population estimates by age were adjusted October 21, 1997 whereas the estimates for total population were adjusted March 30, 1998.
Source: Statistics Canada, Census and Demographic Statistics, Demography Division, 1986-1990: Revised intercensal estimates at July 1st;
 1991-1995: final postcensal estimates at July 1st; 1996-1997: updated postcensal estimates at July 1st.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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