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YOUTH CUSTODY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CANADA, 1999/00

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Highlights

- Admissions to youth correctional services declined in 1999/00. More than half of admissions to correctional services were to probation. The rate of admissions to probation was down 8% compared to the previous year, to 147 admissions per 10,000 youth.
- Admissions to secure and open custody (sentenced custody) accounted for 21% of youth correctional admissions. The rate of sentenced custody declined by 7%, to 64 admissions per 10,000 youth.
- Remand admissions accounted for 25% of youth correctional admissions. The remand rate declined by 4%, to 69 admissions per 10,000 youth.
- Time served in remand custody is short – about one week or less for half of those released. In comparison, just over half of releases from open custody (51%) and secure custody (56%) took place within one month of admission.
- The most common admissions to sentenced custody (open and secure) were related to property offences, accounting for 42% of admissions. Violent offences accounted for 22% of admissions and offences under the *Young Offenders Act* for 21%. The most common admissions to probation were property offences (49%) or violent offences (29%).
- Aboriginal youth continued to be over-represented in the youth correctional system. Among the ten jurisdictions to report Aboriginal status, Aboriginal youth accounted for 23% of admissions to sentenced custody, while they accounted for only 5% of the youth population in these jurisdictions.
- The average number of young offenders on probation at any given time far exceeds the average number of young offenders in custody, ranging from 7 to 10 times higher among reporting jurisdictions.



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Introduction

Canadians recently expressed their views on young offenders and sentencing in the national 1999 General Social Survey. Alternatives to prison for young offenders were favoured by Canadians, particularly for first-time offenders.¹ Knowledge of sentences served in the community and in custody is required by the public, correctional service officials, policy makers and legislators to make informed decisions.

The purpose of this *Juristat* is to provide information from the correctional services sector to describe the case-flow and workload of the youth correctional system. The correctional services sector provides counts of youth admissions to custodial facilities and to probation through the Youth Custody and Community Services survey (YCCS). This survey is a recent survey, with the first data released for the year 1997/98. Refer to the annual publication for YCCS information highlighted in this *Juristat*.²

The YCCS data describe the number and characteristics of youths admitted to correctional institutions and probation according to the nature of the offence, the length of disposition ordered by the court and releases from correctional services by duration of actual time served. Also presented is information on the sex, age and Aboriginal status of youth admissions to custody and probation. This *Juristat* presents data from two perspectives: (1) the annual caseload description provided by admission counts and, (2) the daily workload in the correctional system summarized by the average number of young offenders in custody or on probation on any given day. These daily workload counts are computed into incarceration rates and probation rates based on the number of youths in the population. Data on average daily counts are taken from the Corrections Key Indicator Report. All inter-jurisdictional comparisons of these data should consider that the administration of correctional services may vary among jurisdictions. For example, in some provinces, the administration of youth corrections is shared between the ministries of social services and correctional services.

Sentences Available in Youth Court³

Youth court judges have many options available when sentencing a young offender. These options include, for example, custody, probation, fine, community service, restitution, a conditional or absolute discharge.

Custody is the most serious sentence that may be used against young offenders in Canada. Custody may be either secure or open. Secure custody refers to facilities designated for secure restraint. Open custody refers to facilities such as residential centres or group homes. Terms of custody for young offenders are limited to a maximum of two years for convictions for which the adult maximum is not life imprisonment. For crimes punishable by life or where multiple offences are involved, the maximum is three years, and for first degree murder a young offender may be sentenced in youth court for up to ten years: six years in custody followed by four years of conditional supervision.

Probation involves placing a number of conditions on the offender for a specified period of time – up to two years. Probation orders include a number of mandatory conditions and may include other optional conditions. The mandatory conditions require the offender to keep the peace, be of good behaviour, and appear before the court as required. Optional conditions may include a curfew, reporting to a probation officer, and attending school. Probation is often used in combination with other sanctions.

A community service order is a disposition where a young person is ordered to perform unpaid work for the community. The maximum length of a community service order is 240 hours with a maximum term of completion of twelve months.

Other available sanctions include [fines] restitution, compensation, prohibition or a conditional or absolute discharge.

¹ See Tufts, 2000.

² The YCCS standard data tables and the Key Indicator Report data are available in the Youth Custody and Community Services Data Tables, 1999/00 publication (catalogue number 85-226-XIE).

³ Excerpts from Sanders, 2000.

ADMISSIONS TO YOUTH CUSTODY AND PROBATION

An admission to custody or to probation occurs when a youth commences an uninterrupted period of supervision within a specific custody status (e.g., remand, secure or open) or probation under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director responsible for the administration of youth corrections and/or programs. An admission is counted each time a young offender commences a particular custody status or a term of probation, including changes from one status to another (e.g., one youth held during trial in remand custody and then sentenced to secure custody results in two admissions). An admission is tabulated according to one offence - the most serious offence (MSO). Although it is possible that a youth is being held for multiple offences related to a single admission, the admission appears only once in the counts in relation to the most serious offence. Therefore, less serious offences tend to be under-represented in tables that describe offence information. For more information on the YCCS survey, refer to the Methodology section at the end of this report.

In 1999/00, there were approximately 15,550 admissions to open and secure custody facilities in Canada, excluding Nunavut (see Table 1). Slightly more than half of these were sentenced admissions to open custody, while the remainder were to secure custody. In addition, remand (temporary detention) accounted for approximately 9,900 admissions to youth custody. Nevertheless, the majority of correctional service work was the administration of probation; 55% of admissions to correctional services were admissions to probation. Comparing reporting jurisdictions to the previous year, admissions for young persons sentenced to custody decreased by 7%, and remand by 4%, while probation decreased by 8%.

Non-Prison alternatives favoured for young offenders

Canadians favour sentences for young offenders that are alternatives to prison. Canadians strongly favour alternatives to prison for young people who are first-time offenders convicted of breaking and entering or assault, while alternatives to prison were favoured by only half of respondents for repeat offenders in similar situations. In the 1999 General Social Survey on Victimization, a representative sample of Canadians aged 15-years of age and older were asked several questions about their attitudes towards prison and non-prison sentences such as probation, fines, and community work. Respondents expressed views on sample crime scenarios involving either youth or adult offenders found guilty of breaking into a house when the owners were on vacation and taking goods worth \$400, or found guilty of an assault where the victim received minor injuries but did not require medical attention.

Non-prison sentences were preferred by 7 in 10 Canadians for the first offence of breaking and entering and assault committed by the young offender while 5 in 10 Canadians preferred this sentence for a repeat offence. For adult offenders, a non-prison sentence was preferred by 6 in 10 Canadians for a first offence compared with 3 in 10 Canadians for the repeat offender convicted of either breaking and entering or assault (Tufts, 2000).

Support for non-prison alternatives has been the standard among the judiciary for young offenders, particularly for first-time offenders, based on youth court statistics (see Sanders, 2000). In 1999/00, for example, 63% of convictions for first-time young offenders ended in probation compared with 42% for repeat offenders, and a term of custody was ordered for only 17% of first-time offender convictions compared with 42% for the repeat offender (deSouza, 2001).

CUSTODY ADMISSIONS

Remand admissions accounted for the largest share of custodial admissions among the ten reporting jurisdictions, while the next most common admissions were to open custody and finally secure custody. While remand is not a sentence under the YOA, the custodial nature of remand detention necessitates the inclusion of these data as a custody status. Youth are generally admitted into remand because youth court has denied them bail (i.e., release prior to court hearing). This is usually based on the determination that the youth poses a danger to society or there may be a chance that they will not appear for their court hearing. Most youth held in remand are awaiting a court hearing, or they may be awaiting sentencing. Although remand represents a large proportion of custody admissions, the “temporary nature” of remand results in short periods of detention. For this *Juristat*, custody admissions refer to secure and open custody admissions (as a result of a finding of guilt by the court) and remand admissions.

Jurisdictional comparisons

When examining the data contained in this *Juristat* and the trends and differences between jurisdictions, it is important to consider that these data are as much a reflection of the differences in the administration of youth justice across Canada as they are an indication of delinquency.

Factors that contribute to differing trends is the use of informal (e.g., police discretion) and formal diversion measures (e.g. alternative measures) by police and crown. Such diversion methods have an impact on the court case-flow and caseload on correctional facilities and programs.

As the data are drawn from the local administrative systems, they also reflect local case management practices as well as differences in the way the information is administered on their systems. Consequently, the reader is advised to closely examine table notes and be cautious in making direct comparisons between jurisdictions and with prior years.

Characteristics of Young Offenders

As with adults, the majority of youths involved in crime are males. Three-quarters (77%) of youth charged with a Criminal Code offence in 1999 were male and 23% were female (Tremblay, 2000). Similarly, eight in ten youth court cases in 1999/00 involved males (deSouza, 2001). Correctional admission data also reflect this pattern.

Young males in custody tend to be older than young females. At the time of admission to remand in eight reporting jurisdictions,⁴ young persons aged 16 years or more accounted for 61% of admissions for males compared with 46% of admissions for females. Similarly, in sentenced custody among ten reporting jurisdictions,⁵ young male offenders accounted for 63% of sentenced custody admissions compared with 44% for female offenders. These large differences were consistent among the jurisdictions, with the exception of Nova Scotia, and the Northwest Territories, and sentenced custody admissions in Prince Edward Island and Yukon. For a more detailed review of the differences between male and female young offenders in terms of types of offences committed and criminal history, refer to (deSouza, 2001).

⁴ Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

⁵ Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, and Nunavut.

Aboriginal youth over-represented in remand, secure and open custody

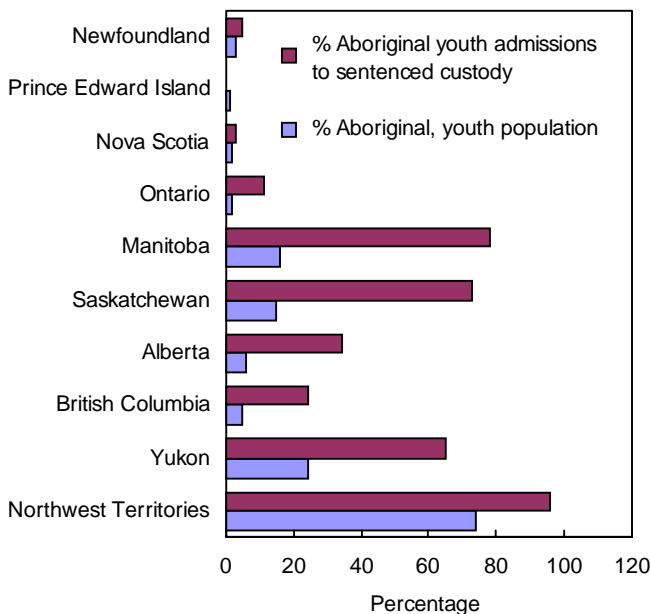
Aboriginal youth admissions accounted for approximately one in four admissions to remand, and to secure and open custody in 1999/00. Data from nine reporting jurisdictions (where aboriginal status was known)⁶ showed that 27% of admissions to remand were Aboriginal youth compared with 23% of admissions to sentenced custody from ten jurisdictions.⁷ In many of these jurisdictions, the proportion of sentenced admissions for Aboriginal youth far exceeded the proportion of Aboriginal youth in the general population, particularly among the western provinces (see Figure 1). Among the reporting jurisdictions, Manitoba showed the largest differences between the aboriginal youth population and the aboriginal sentenced population (16% versus 78% respectively). A similar profile was reported for remand admissions and again the largest difference in these two populations was in Manitoba (16% versus 69%). In addition, among the jurisdictions reporting data, aboriginal youth accounted for a larger proportion of admissions for females compared with admissions for males in remand (36% versus 24%) and sentenced custody (27% versus 22%).

Remand Admissions

In 1999/00, there were 9,933 remand admissions in ten jurisdictions, accounting for the majority of custodial admissions (see Table 1).⁸ A comparatively large proportion of the custody workload was remand admissions in Manitoba (76%), British

Figure 1

Aboriginal youth are over-represented in open and secure custody



Note: Data unavailable from N.B., Que, and Nvt.
Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, 1999/00, CCJS. Statistics Canada, 1996 Census: Aboriginal population.

Columbia (64%), and Alberta (60%). In contrast, 21% of custodial admissions in the Northwest Territories were remand admissions.

In 1999/00, among ten reporting jurisdictions, there were 69 youth admissions to remand per 10,000 youth population (see Table 2).⁹ Next to the territories, the highest rates of remand admissions were reported in Manitoba (189 per 10,000 youth), in Alberta (94 per 10,000 youth) and by British Columbia (75 per 10,000 youth). The lowest rate was reported in Prince Edward Island (30 per 10,000 youth).

Of the seven jurisdictions reporting offence information,¹⁰ property offences accounted for the highest proportion of remand admissions overall (34%), followed by violent crimes (23%), other Criminal Code (16%) and YOA (21%) offences. The YOA offence category represented the largest proportion of remand custodial admissions in British Columbia (36%).

8 in 10 remand releases occurred within one month

A youth may be released from remand for a number of reasons that include: a transfer into another form of supervision (i.e., open custody, secure custody, probation), a court finding of not guilty, or alternatively, a court finding of guilty where the court has considered the time spent in remand as sufficient punishment for the crime (time already served).

In 1999/00, among eight reporting jurisdictions,¹¹ about one-half (52%) of youth remand releases occurred within one week of admission, 31% spent between one week and one month, 16% served between one to six months, and 1% of remand releases took place after a period of more than 6 months.

Initial entries into remand, custody and community services

For the YCCS survey, admission data measure the number of commencements to specific types of programs (i.e., remand, open and secure custody and probation). However, a youth's case may be composed of multiple types of program admissions from the time of entry under the authority of correctional services until release. Initial entry data indicate the number of case commencements in the youth correctional service system and are classified by the initial program type to which the youth is ordered.

For the eight jurisdictions that were able to provide initial entry statistics for 1999/00, there were 27,499 initial entries to youth correctional services.¹² In Newfoundland, for example, 668 initial entries were processed compared with 1,166 program admissions. Overall, initial entries to remand accounted for 26% of all entries, probation for 49%, community services programs for 11%, open custody for 8%, and secure custody for 6%. Few young offenders begin their experience in correctional services in open or secure custody.

⁶ Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, partial Ontario data, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

⁷ Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec and Nunavut.

⁸ Excludes Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

⁹ Excludes Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

¹⁰ Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Nunavut, while partial data was reported by Ontario.

¹¹ Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

¹² Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Nunavut.

Admissions to Secure and Open Custody

In 1999/00, there were 15,552 admissions to secure and open custody among twelve reporting jurisdictions, or 64 admissions for every 10,000 youth in these jurisdictions (see Tables 1, 2). Secure custody admissions accounted for 47% of sentenced custody admissions compared to 53% for open custody.

At the national level, the secure custody admission rate was 30 admissions per 10,000 youth compared to a rate of 34 for open custody (see Table 3).¹³ In comparison to the previous year, the rate of open custody admissions per 10,000 youth decreased by 10%, while the secure custody rate decreased by 3%. While the highest rates were reported in the territories, there was a great deal of variation among the provinces. Secure custody admission rates ranged from 6 per 10,000 youth in Nova Scotia to 44 admissions per 10,000 youth in New Brunswick. Open custody admission rates ranged from 16 per 10,000 youth in Prince Edward Island to 48 per 10,000 youth in Nova Scotia.¹⁴

Majority of custody sentences for property offences

Four in ten sentenced custody admissions result from property offences. For the eight jurisdictions that provided offence information for open and secure custody admissions in 1999/00, property offences accounted for 42% of sentenced admissions. Violent offences represented 22% of sentenced custodial admissions, YOA admissions, 21%; other types of Criminal Code offences, 9%; drug-related offences, 3%; and other admissions, 3%.¹⁵ Two specific offence types account for 40% of admissions to secure and open custody: YOA offences, which are largely a result of a young offender's failure to comply with a previous sentence (21%), and break and enter (19%) (see Figure 2).

British Columbia and the Northwest Territories reported the lowest proportion of custodial admissions for violent offences (18%) while Yukon reported the highest (24%). Property offence admissions ranged from 28% of all sentenced custody admissions in British Columbia to 77% in the Northwest Territories. Most jurisdictions consistently reported a large proportion of sentenced admissions for YOA offences (e.g. British Columbia, with a high of 39%). In contrast, in the Northwest Territories (2%), Alberta (15%) and Newfoundland (15%) these offences accounted for a small proportion of sentenced admissions.

Sentence Length

When examining sentence lengths, it is important to distinguish between sentence lengths on admission and those on release. *While a youth court judge stipulates the period of custody, events such as appeals, reviews, escapes, and the administration of additional sentences may influence the amount of time served. Time served on release may differ from time ordered for these reasons.* In addition, correctional service officials may move the young offender from secure custody to open custody, in compliance with jurisdictional procedures.

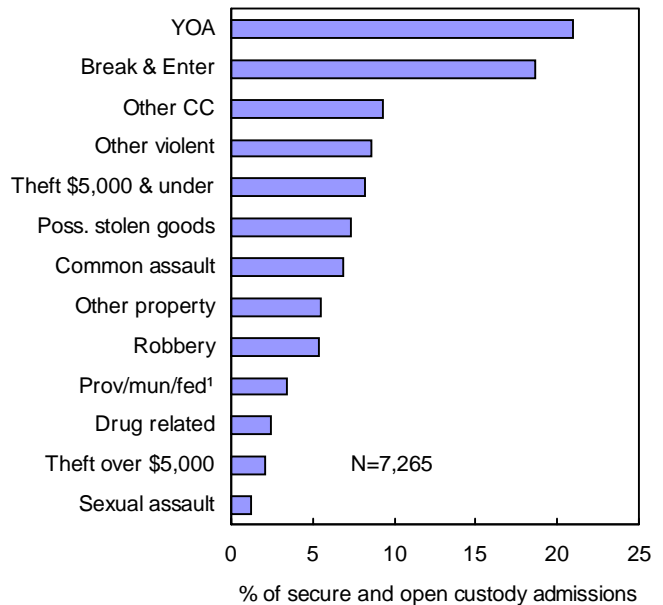
¹³ Excludes Nunavut.

¹⁴ Note that the administration of youth justice and the way secure and open custody facilities are used varies widely across the country. In addition, these youth may have been moved from remand custody. Refer to the Methodology section for a more detailed explanation.

¹⁵ Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario (partial data), Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut.

Figure 2

YOA and Break and Enter offences account for 4 in 10 admissions to secure and open custody



¹ Refers to admissions resulting from other types of federal, provincial and municipal infractions.

Note: Total admissions based on the most serious offence for the admission. Excludes N.B., Que., Ont. (partial data), Man., Sask., and Nvt.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, 1999/00, CCJS.

Proposed Youth Criminal Justice Act

The *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) was introduced as a bill in the House of Commons on October 14, 1999 and is intended to replace the *Young Offenders Act*. The bill (currently Bill C-7) was developed and based upon *A Strategy for the Renewal of Youth Justice*, released by the federal government in May 1998, as its response to *Renewing Youth Justice*, April 1997, Report to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs (Douglas & Goetz, 2000). The proposed legislation will:

- expand the offences for which a young person convicted of an offence would be presumed to receive an adult sentence from murder, attempted murder, manslaughter and aggravated sexual assault to include a new category of a pattern of serious violent offences;
- lower the age for youth who are presumed to receive an adult sentence for the above offences to include 14- and 15-year-olds;
- permit the publication of names of all youth who receive an adult sentence;
- create a special sentence for serious violent offenders who suffer from mental illness, psychological disorder or emotional disturbance;
- require all periods of custody to be followed by a period of controlled supervision in the community to support safe and effective reintegration; and,
- allow for and encourage the use of a full range of community-based sentences and effective alternatives to the justice system for youth who commit non-violent offences (Department of Justice Canada, 1999).

Bill C-7 continues through the legislative process. No date for passage or enforcement is known at this time.

Half of releases from sentenced custody occur within one month

In 1999/00, there were 4,720 secure custody releases and 5,647 open custody releases reported by eight jurisdictions. Fifty-three percent of releases from sentenced custody occurred within one month or less, 36% within one to 6 months, 9% within 6 months to 1 year, and 2% of releases occurred after more than 1 year in sentenced custody (see below). In Ontario, British Columbia and Yukon, six in ten releases occurred within one month or less compared with one in ten releases in the Northwest Territories.

	1 month or less	greater than 1 month to 6 months	greater than 6 months to 1 year	greater than 1 year
	%			
Total ¹ (100%)	53	36	9	2
Newfoundland	33	54	11	2
Prince Edward Island	36	45	16	3
Nova Scotia	35	57	8	0
New Brunswick	..	..	..	..
Quebec	..	..	..	..
Ontario	57	31	9	2
Manitoba	..	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	..
Alberta	45	48	6	1
British Columbia	62	29	8	2
Yukon	57	38	3	3
Northwest Territories	12	51	30	7
Nunavut	..	..	..	..

.. Figures not available
 - Nil or zero
¹ Excludes New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nunavut.
 Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada.

In 1999/00, the majority of probation admissions involved males (77%). Similar to custody, young offenders aged 16 years and older accounted for a larger proportion of the probation admissions for males than females (59% versus 46%). Again, probation admissions showed an over-representation of Aboriginal youth, particularly among the western provinces. However, the degree of Aboriginal over-representation within probation was lower compared with custody in the eight jurisdictions that reported both probation and sentenced custody data.¹⁷ Aboriginal youth accounted for 15% of probation admissions compared with 23% of sentenced custody admissions in 1999/00. In these jurisdictions, Aboriginal youth accounted for only 4% of the general youth population.

Most young offenders on probation for more than six months

The majority of probation admissions are for terms longer than six months. For most reporting jurisdictions, the median probation sentence for young offenders was one year. In 1999/00, 16% of probation admissions were for terms of six months or less, 53% were greater than six months to one year, 28% for one to two years, and only 2% were longer than two years. While this pattern described most jurisdictions, a larger proportion of probation terms were shorter, from 3 to 6 months, in Nova Scotia and Alberta (25% each).

Trends in Youth Crime

Police reported crime statistics show that since 1991 the rate of youths charged by police has dropped by 35%. In 1999, youths were charged at a rate of 407 youths per 10,000 in Canada (Tremblay, 2000). While the rate of property crime decreased consistently during this period of time, the youth crime rate for violent crimes increased during the earlier years and only declined recently (8% since 1996). These decreases rippled through the justice system as the rate of cases processed in youth court declined as well, by 17% from 1992/93 to 1999/00 (Sudworth, 2001). Throughout these years, approximately two-thirds of cases heard in youth court resulted in a finding of guilt, one-half of cases with convictions ended with a probation order as the most serious sentence, while another one-third ended in custody.

PROBATION ADMISSIONS

Over half of correctional workload is probation

In 1999/00, there were 34,536 admissions to probation among ten reporting jurisdictions,¹⁶ representing 55% of correctional service admissions (see Table 1). Probation admissions varied from 36% of correctional service admissions in Yukon to 68% in Nova Scotia.

In comparison to the previous year, the rate of youth probation admissions declined by 8% (see Table 2). Among reporting jurisdictions, the largest decreases in the rate of probation admissions were reported in Newfoundland (20%), British Columbia (19%) and Saskatchewan (17%). The large proportion of probation admissions had a property offence as the most serious offence (49%). Violent offences accounted for 29% of probation admissions; other types of Criminal Code offences, 9%, YOA offences, 5%; drug-related offences, 4% and other offences, 4%. Similar to previous years, the offences that predominated were common assault (13% of probation admissions), theft of goods valued at \$5,000 and under (14%) and break and enter (15%).

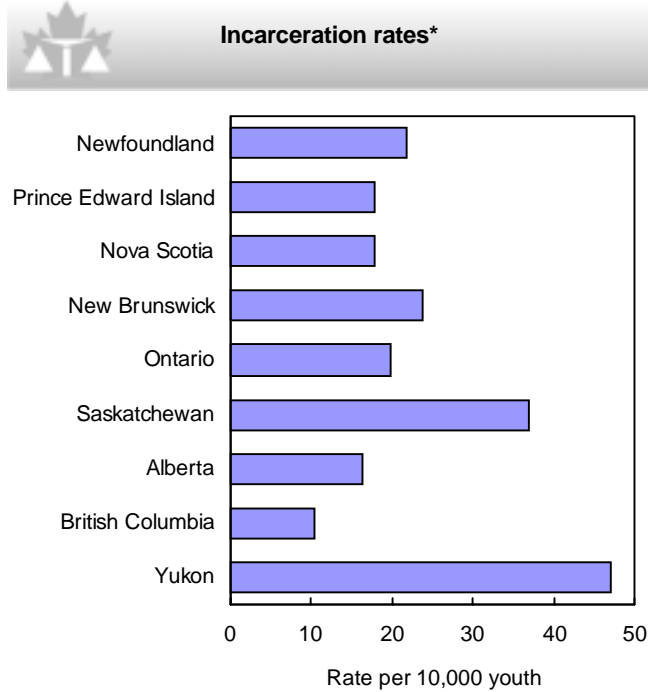
DAILY WORKLOAD

Data on daily workload provide a different view of the youth correctional system compared with admission data. While admission data represent the movement of young offenders in and out of supervision (or case-flow), "average daily counts" (or caseload) provide workload data, which measure the volume of offenders held in custody or on probation at a given point in time. Although the average daily counts are more general in nature, they are an important and well-established management tool for correctional service officials. The average daily counts are also the figures used to calculate the incarceration and probation rates. A short-term trend analysis of these counts is possible since these data have been supplied to the CCJS since 1994.

¹⁶ Excludes Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut admissions.

¹⁷ Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon reported both custody (secure/open custody) and probation admissions by Aboriginal status in 1999/00.

Figure 3



* Average daily count in custodial facilities is the basis of a rate.
Note: Excludes data for Que., Man., N.W.T., and Nvt.
Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adults and Young Offenders, 1999/00, CCJS.

The average number of young offenders on probation at any given time ranges from seven to ten times higher than the average number of young offenders in custody among reporting jurisdictions (see Table 4). This finding is not unexpected given that youth are more likely to be sentenced in court to probation than to custody, and youth on probation tend to receive longer terms than those sentenced to custody.

Incarceration rates and probation rates varied across the country in 1999/00.¹⁸ These figures reflect the number of young offenders in custody or probation on any given day (average daily count) in relation to the number of youth in the population. In British Columbia, for example, there were 10 young offenders in custody for every 10,000 youth, while the Saskatchewan rate was 37 per 10,000 youth (see Figure 3). Provincial probation rates ranged from 112 young offenders per 10,000 youth in Alberta and British Columbia to 213 per 10,000 in Ontario.

Custody: Short-term trends¹⁹

From 1995/96 to 1999/00, incarceration rates declined in all reporting jurisdictions. Prince Edward Island reported the largest decrease (37%) from 28.6 young offenders in custody daily per 10,000 youth in 1995/96 to 17.9 in 1999/00. In contrast, the Saskatchewan incarceration rate decreased marginally during these years. Noteworthy decreases also were reported by Alberta (33%), New Brunswick (25%), and Nova Scotia and British Columbia (23% respectively).

Probation: Short-term trends²⁰

From 1995/96 to 1999/00, most jurisdictions showed decreases in youth probation rates. Of the eight reporting jurisdictions, the most substantial declines occurred in Prince Edward Island (47%), Yukon (31%), and British Columbia (26%). In contrast, Saskatchewan and Ontario reported increases in the probation rate during this period (18% and 11% respectively).

METHODOLOGY

This *Juristat* contains data collected from two different sources, Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) survey and the Key Indicator Report. The YCCS survey maintains both micro and aggregate level data, which are collected by provincial and territorial agencies responsible for the delivery of youth corrections and young offender programs. These data are collected annually on a fiscal year basis (April 1 to March 31). These data have been available since 1997-98.

In 1999/00, Newfoundland and Alberta provided case-specific information to the YCCS (i.e., micro-level data) that were then used to generate the aggregate level admission counts reported in this *Juristat*. These respondents represent roughly 13% of the national caseload. The remainder of reporting jurisdictions provided aggregate counts. Because of the limited coverage provided by the case-specific survey, analysis in this report has been limited to aggregated data.

Jurisdictions providing aggregate data complete a set of standard data tables, which are used to compile national data on admissions and releases. Micro data, on the other hand, are extracted directly from provincial operational systems, through the use of interface programs. The interface programs are designed to extract specific data elements and values identified in the National Data Requirements developed by provincial/territorial and federal members of the National Justice Statistics Initiative. Micro data reported by the jurisdictions are centrally processed, edited, and loaded onto the YCCS database. These data are later used to generate admission counts, which are tabulated in the aggregate standard data tables.

It is important to note that for both aggregate and micro level respondents, once the data are processed and compiled into the standard data tables, these data are analysed and returned to the jurisdictions for final verification. The participation of the jurisdictions in the survey process is vital to ensuring data quality and understanding the differences in provincial and territorial youth justice/correctional systems.

¹⁸ Excludes Quebec, Manitoba and Nunavut average counts.
¹⁹ Excludes Quebec and partial Ontario data (for young persons 12-15 years of age) from remand data.
²⁰ Excludes Quebec, the Northwest Territories from 1997/98 to 1999/00 and Yukon in 1999/00, and partial Ontario data (for youth aged 12 to 15 years of age) in all years.

Unit of analysis

The YCCS survey generates two levels of data that describe the case-flow of youth within correctional facilities and programs: initial entry data and admission data. Initial entry data indicate at what point or type of supervision the youth first enters the youth corrections system. The second level, admission data, measures the movement of young offenders through admissions to different types of supervision. The following example provides an illustration of how admissions for one young offender are calculated by the YCCS survey. Where a youth has been denied bail and held in custody until he or she is sentenced to serve a term of secure custody, followed by a term of open custody and probation, the YCCS counts:

e.g. remand + secure + open + probation (all served consecutively)

- i) initial entry: 1 initial entry to remand
- ii) admissions: 1 admission to remand
1 admission to secure custody
1 admission to open custody
1 admission to probation.

In this example, one initial entry to remand would be counted. Typically, one youth should always be associated with one initial entry to one uninterrupted period of supervision. It is important to point out that if a young offender completes his/her supervision obligations and re-enters the system after re-offending in the same reporting year, he/she will generate more than one initial entry.

It is also important to point out that youth transferred from one facility to another while still under the same level of supervision are not counted as a new admission. As well, new admission counts exclude young offenders placed in secure custody as transfers from open custody facilities. These "administrative" transfers are for a short period of time, not to exceed 15 days, and are authorized by a senior correctional official. In addition, youth returning from a period of temporary absence are not included as a new admission.

The Key Indicator Report data measure the average counts of youth in custody (remand, secure, and open) and on probation. The data are collected annually on a fiscal year basis (April 1 to March 31). Jurisdictions submit monthly counts in aggregate format which are compiled by Correctional Services Program staff. Average counts include all youth on remand and temporary detention, sentenced offenders and other young offenders who are legally required to be at a facility and are present at the time the count is taken by correctional facility officials. Average counts for young offenders on probation

include young offenders on supervised probation at the end of the month.

The YCCS standard data tables and the Key Indicator Report data are available in the *Youth Custody and Community Services Data Tables, 1999/00* publication (catalogue number 85-226-XIE).

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Table 1


Youth Correctional Admissions, 1998/99 and 1999/00

	Remand ¹			Sentenced custody ²			Probation ³		
	1999/00	1998/99	percent change for comparable jurisdictions	1999/00	1998/99	percent change for comparable jurisdictions	1999/00	1998/99	percent change for comparable jurisdictions
TOTAL	9,933	10,435	-4	15,552	16,144	-7	34,536	37,754	-8
Newfoundland	177	212	-17	358	394	-9	631	790	-20
Prince Edward Island	37	35	6	50	50	--	109	78	40
Nova Scotia	316	343	-8	409	424	-4	1,545	1,679	-8
New Brunswick ⁴	263	291	-10	452	472	-4	862	858	--
Quebec	2,271	2,447	-7	2,343	2,459	-5	8,036	8,152	-1
Ontario ⁵	..	..^r	...	7,359	7,403	...	15,186	16,123	...
Manitoba	1,858	1,636	14	579	686	-16	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	645	781	-17	1,634	1,957	-17
Alberta	2,484	2,851	-13	1,643	1,702	-3	3,115	3,387	-8
British Columbia	2,377	2,393	-1	1,352	1,484	-9	3,329	4,094	-19
Yukon	77	93	-17	79	78	1	89	96	-7
Northwest Territories ⁶	73	134	...	283	211	...	..	540	...
Nunavut	..	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...

.. figures not available

... figures not applicable

-- amount too small to be expressed

^r revised

¹ Remand counts in 1999/00 exclude Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year excludes these jurisdictions and the Northwest Territories.

² Sentenced admission counts in 1999/00 exclude Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year excludes Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

³ Probation counts in 1999/00 exclude Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year also excludes these jurisdictions and Ontario.

⁴ Due to system problems, all New Brunswick figures in 1999/00 are projections based on six months of actual data.

⁵ Due to a change in local data extraction methods in Ontario during 1999/00 all trend comparisons must be made with caution and the counts treated as indicators.

Excludes 4,927 remand counts in 1999/00 for young persons aged 16 and older, while data for those 12-15 years of age are unavailable. 1998/99 remand counts have been revised.

⁶ Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/2000 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

The 1999/00 data include an unknown number of transfers from Nunavut. This change influences frequency counts, rates and trend analysis.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 2



Youth Correctional Service Admission Rates per 10,000 youth, 1998/99 and 1999/00

	Remand ¹ rate per 10,000 youth*			Sentenced custody ² rate per 10,000 youth*			Probation ³ rate per 10,000*		
	1999/00	1998/99	percent change for comparable jurisdictions	1999/00	1998/99	percent change for comparable jurisdictions	1999/00	1998/99	percent change for comparable jurisdictions
TOTAL	69	72	-4	64	65	-7	147	152	-8
Newfoundland	37	42	-14	74	79	-6	131	164	-20
Prince Edward Island	30	28	5	40	41	-1	88	63	40
Nova Scotia	42	45	-8	54	56	-4	203	221	-8
New Brunswick ⁴	43	47	-9	74	76	-3	141	140	--
Quebec	41	43	-5	43	44	-2	146	148	-1
Ontario ⁵	..	..^r	...	80	82	...	166	176	...
Manitoba	189	168	13	59	70	-16	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	..	..	..	67	81	-17	170	203	-17
Alberta	94	110	-14	62	65	-5	118	129	-8
British Columbia	75	75	-1	42	47	-9	104	128	-19
Yukon	259	312	-17	266	262	2	300	323	-7
Northwest Territories ⁶	184	190	...	712	300	...	..	..	...
Nunavut	..	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...

.. figures not available

... figures not applicable

-- amount too small to be expressed

^r revised

* Rate calculations based on postcensal estimates as of July 1st, 1999, Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.

¹ Remand rates in 1999/00 exclude Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year excludes these jurisdictions and the Northwest Territories.

² Sentenced admission rates in 1999/00 exclude Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year excludes Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

³ Probation rates in 1999/00 exclude Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year also excludes these jurisdictions and Ontario.

⁴ Due to system problems, all New Brunswick figures in 1999/00 reflect projections based on six months of actual data.

⁵ Due to a change in local data extraction methods in Ontario during 1999/00 all trend comparisons must be made with caution and the counts treated as indicators.

Excludes 4,927 remand counts in 1999/00 for young persons aged 16 and older, while data for those 12-15 years of age are unavailable. 1998/99 remand counts have been revised.

⁶ Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/2000 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

The 1999/00 data include an unknown number of transfers from Nunavut. This change influences frequency counts, rates and trend analysis.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.

Table 3


Youth Correctional Service Admissions to Secure and Open Custody, 1998/99 and 1999/00

	Secure custody						Open custody					
	Admissions*			Rates per 10,000 youth**			Admissions*			Rates per 10,000 youth**		
	1999/00	1998/99	percent change for comparable jurisdictions	1999/00	1998/99	percent change for comparable jurisdictions	1999/00	1998/99	percent change for comparable jurisdictions	1999/00	1998/99	percent change for comparable jurisdictions
TOTAL	7,349	7,823	-4	30	32	-3	8,203	8,321	-10	34	34	-10
Newfoundland	160	195	-18	33	39	-15	198	199	-1	41	40	3
Prince Edward Island	30	31	-3	24	25	-4	20	19	5	16	15	5
Nova Scotia	45	62	-27	6	8	-28	364	362	1	48	48	--
New Brunswick ¹	269	279	-4	44	45	-2	183	193	-5	30	31	-4
Quebec	1,285	1,299	-1	23	23	1	1,058	1,160	-9	19	21	-7
Ontario ²	3,273	3,564	...	36	39	...	4,086	3,839	...	38	42	...
Manitoba	202	238	-15	21	24	-16	377	448	-16	38	46	-17
Saskatchewan	301	332	-9	31	34	-9	344	449	-23	36	46	-23
Alberta	1,005	999	1	38	38	-1	638	703	-9	24	27	-10
British Columbia	649	660	-2	20	21	-2	703	824	-15	22	26	-15
Yukon	36	52	-31	121	174	-30	43	26	65	145	87	66
Northwest Territories ³	94	112	...	236	284	...	189	99	...	475	251	...
Nunavut

.. figures not available

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r revised

* Sentenced admission counts and rates in 1999/00 exclude Nunavut; the percent change over the previous year excludes Ontario, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

** Rate calculations based on postcensal estimates as of July 1st, 1999, Demography Division, Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.

¹ Due to system problems, all New Brunswick figures in 1999/00 reflect projections based on six months of actual data.

² Due to a change in local data extraction methods in Ontario during 1999/00 all trend comparisons must be made with caution and the counts treated as indicators.

³ Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/2000 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

The 1999/00 data include an unknown number of transfers from Nunavut. This change influences frequency counts, rates and trend analysis.

Source: Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Census and Demographic Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.

Table 4


Daily Number of Young Offenders in Custody or on Probation, 1999/00

	Average daily custody counts				Incarceration rate /10,000 youth	Average probation count	
	Secure custody	Open custody	Remand/ temporary detention	Total custody		Total at month-end	Probation rate /10,000 youth
Newfoundland	42	48	13	103	22	969	207
Prince Edward Island ¹	10	9	3	22	18	205	165
Nova Scotia	18	93	23	135	18	1,261	166
New Brunswick ²	55	76	14	144	24	951	157
Quebec	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ontario	724	813	293	1,830	20	19,728	213
Manitoba	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	162	121	69	351	37	1,975	207
Alberta	153	165	116	433	16	2,914	112
British Columbia	95	143	91	329	10	3,574	112
Yukon	5	5	4	14	47	96	322
Northwest Territories ³	22	37	4	63	..	..	..
Nunavut	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. figures not available

... figures not applicable

¹ Probation data include alternative measures.

² Secure custody counts are daily counts while open custody counts are weekly counts. Due to system problems, the probation count is an estimate based on six months of actual data.

³ Northwest Territories data prior to 1999/2000 may not be compared with the current year due to the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

The 1999/00 data include an unknown number of transfers from Nunavut. This change influences frequency counts, rates and trend analysis.

Note: Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals. These data represent yearly averages.

Source: Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adults and Young Offenders, 1999/00, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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