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Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort

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Abstract

This is the first quasi-national Canadian study of the criminal careers of a birth cohort. It uses linked data from the Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey to describe the court careers up to the 22nd birthday of Canadians born in 1979/80. The study includes six provinces — Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta — accounting for approximately 78% of the population of Canada.

Eighteen per 100 members of the cohort were referred to court for a criminal offence allegedly committed before their 22nd birthday. Thirteen were found guilty of at least one offence, and ten received a sentence which put them under the supervision of correctional or probation authorities. The peak age of referral to court is 18 years. On average, between the ages of 12 and 21 inclusive, alleged offenders were referred to court in connection with 3.1 criminal incidents — or 2.4, if administrative offences are excluded. Just over half of alleged offenders had only one incident in their court career. Sixteen percent of alleged offenders were classified as chronic offenders, who were responsible for 58% of all alleged criminal incidents.

Individuals whose contact with the court system begins later in adolescence tend to be involved in fewer criminal incidents. The lengths of court careers vary widely, but the mean and median lengths are 20 months and 13 months respectively. Age-specific annual rates of alleged offending are similar for accused males and females, and peak at 15 years of age. There is no particular tendency to escalation, de-escalation, or stability in the seriousness of repeated court referrals: all three patterns occur frequently. Thirty-seven percent of individuals with multiple court referrals have adolescent-limited careers (i.e. no incidents after the 18th birthday which resulted in court referral), 43% have adult-onset careers (no incidents before the 18th birthday), and 20% are persistent offenders (with incidents both as youths and as adults). The latter have many more criminal incidents in their careers and are much more likely than the others to have been referred to court for an offence against the person; however, the incidents in their careers are not more serious on average, and they are not more likely to have had an early onset of contact with the court system.

The file from which these results were derived could support much more detailed analyses of the topics which are touched on by this report, as well as other topics which have not been addressed, such as the timing of incidents during the career, the processing of cases through the courts, the sequence of case outcomes and sentences, and the interactions between sentencing and future offending, including the impact on careers of incapacitation. As additional years of court data become available, future research should follow court careers past the 22nd birthday. This will result in a more complete picture of the court careers of chronic, persistent offenders, as well as a more thorough investigation of the court careers of “adult-onset” offenders, who had no contact with the court system during adolescence.

Background

Research on delinquent and criminal careers is one of the major interests of criminologists and policy-makers in many countries, including the USA, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Sweden, and others. In criminal careers research, the focus of interest is on the development of criminal behaviour over the offender's lifetime, and particularly during the formative years. The theoretical rationale for criminal careers research draws on developmental psychology (Farrington, 1997), social capital theory (Hagan and McCarthy, 1997), and life-course sociology (Sampson and Laub, 1993; Laub and Sampson, 2003). Briefly, it proposes that people become involved in delinquency and crime because of deficiencies in their psychological and social development, particularly during childhood and youth, but that criminogenic tendencies acquired early in life can be modified or overcome by later life-course developments. Its implication is that criminology should attempt not to describe and explain individual crimes, but rather the delinquent or criminal career: that is, the sequence of delinquencies and crimes in a person's life.

Research on delinquent and criminal careers has been extremely fruitful, both in providing new ways of describing crime and delinquency (e.g. the onset, duration, intensity, quality, and termination of the career), and in supporting theorizing about the causes of involvement in, and desistance from, criminal activity. The theoretical and empirical literature is voluminous. It was recently reviewed by Farrington (1997) and Piquero, Farrington and Blumstein (2003). Key sources are by Wolfgang, Figlio and Sellin (1972), Blumstein, Cohen, Roth, and Visser (1986), Wolfgang, Thornberry, and Figlio (1987), Tracy, Wolfgang, and Figlio (1990), Tracy and Kempf-Leonard (1996), Sampson and Laub (1993), and Laub and Sampson (2003). The main empirical studies are summarized in Table A1.

Little of this type of research has been done in Canada. A notable exception is the "Montreal study", which used official and self-report data to follow a small sample of boys in Montreal from childhood through young adulthood during the 1970's and 1980's (LeBlanc and Fréchette, 1989). In a precursor to the present study, Lee (1999, 2000a, 2000b) used data from the Youth Court Survey to analyze the "youth court careers" (sequences of youth court cases) in British Columbia of a cohort born during 1972 to 1975. Whereas criminal careers research follows careers from a chosen point in time into the future, several Canadian studies have analyzed *recidivism* using a *retrospective* design, in which the previous offending history of a sample of offenders is analyzed (Moyer, 1992; Carrington and Moyer, 1995; Doherty and de Souza, 1995; Matarazzo, Carrington and Hiscott, 2001; Thomas, Hurley and Grimes, 2002; Carrington and Schulenberg, 2004). The relationship between the offender's age and the type of offending has also been studied in Canada, using a *cross-sectional* design (Carrington 1996, 1999).

This report presents a descriptive profile of the criminal careers from the 12th to the 22nd birthday, as revealed by charges filed in court,¹ of Canadians born in 1979/80. Six provinces — Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta — accounting for approximately 78% of the population of Canada, are included in the study; the other jurisdictions are omitted because of insufficient time-series data to support analysis. The report describes the criminal incidents in relation to which the cohort were charged and referred to youth court and adult criminal court, and in many cases found guilty. In common with other studies of criminal careers, this report addresses the following questions:

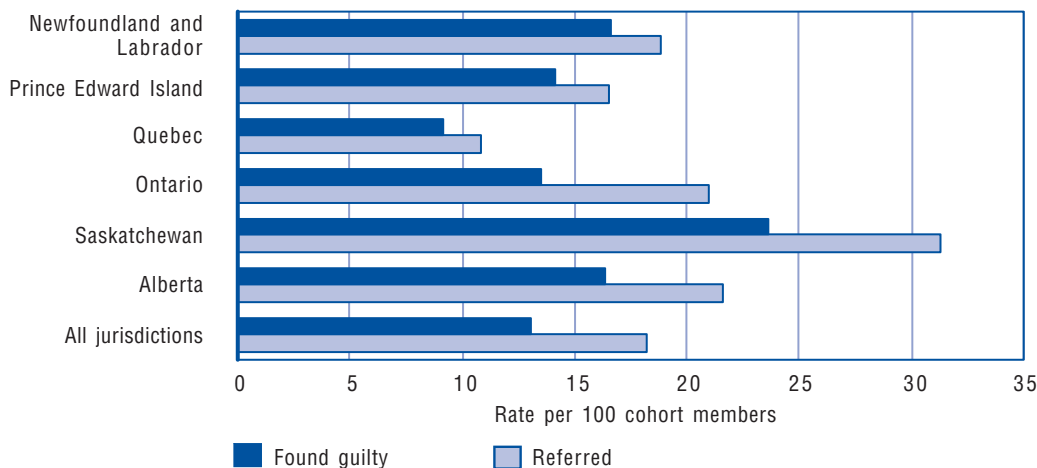
- Prevalence: what proportion of the entire cohort had a court career, i.e. were ever referred to court between their 12th and 22nd birthdays? What proportion were convicted of an offence?
- Frequency: how many criminal incidents make up the court career between the 12th and 22nd birthdays?
- Onset and termination: at what age(s) do court careers tend to begin and end?
- Duration: what is the average length of a court career, i.e. the time which elapses between its onset and termination?
- Rate of offending: on average, in relation to how many alleged criminal incidents per year are individuals referred to court?
- Specialization and versatility: do court careers show a tendency to specialization in one type of crime, or are individuals usually versatile in their alleged offending?
- Changes over time in the seriousness of alleged offences: do the incidents for which alleged offenders are referred to court tend to become more, or less, serious as the career develops and the offender ages, or is the level of seriousness fairly stable?
- Types of careers: what proportion of court careers are limited to the young offender age range (12 to 17 years); what proportion are limited to the adult years (18 to 21 years); and what proportion show persistence over the entire 10 year period?

Prevalence of referral to court and conviction

In the six provinces included in the study, 18 per 100 persons² born in 1979/80 — 28 per 100 males and 8 per 100 females — were referred to youth court or provincial criminal court in relation to offences allegedly committed during the 10 years between their 12th and 22nd birthdays. Of this group, 79% were male, and 21% were female. Of the members of the cohort who were referred to court, 72% were found guilty of at least one offence, with the result that 13 per 100 members of the birth cohort were found guilty of an offence committed before their 22nd birthday – 21 per 100 males in the cohort and 5 per 100 females. The prevalence of referral to court and of conviction up to the age of 21 vary widely across provinces, from 11 per 100 members of the cohort referred, and 9 per 100 convicted, in Quebec, to 31 per 100 referred, and 24 per 100 convicted, in Saskatchewan (Figure 1)³ The relatively high prevalence of referral in Ontario and Saskatchewan may reflect, among other things, the use of post-charge Alternative Measures in those provinces (cf. Robinson, 2004: 5 and 6); the relatively low prevalence of referral in Quebec may reflect, among other things, the extensive pre-court screening process for young persons and the omission of data from Quebec municipal courts.⁴

Figure 1

Rates per 100 cohort members of referral to court and conviction, for incidents occurring before the 22nd birthday, by province



Notes: Provincial variations in the relative proportions of persons referred to court and found guilty are partly a result of different screening and diversion practices. See Robinson, 2004: 5-6.

Prevalence in Quebec may be underestimated due to the omission of municipal court data. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Of those found guilty of at least one offence by their 22nd birthday, 31% — or 4 per 100 members of the birth cohort — received at least one custodial sentence.⁵ For 46% of those found guilty, or 6 per 100 members of the cohort, the most severe sentence received during the career was probation; other sentences accounted for the remaining 23% of offenders. Altogether, one in 10 members of the birth cohort came under the supervision of correctional or probation authorities in relation to offences committed before their 22nd birthday.

These findings are broadly consistent with reports on prevalence of criminal behaviour in other countries, and with previous research on criminal careers in Canada (Table 1). Comparisons of prevalence estimates from different studies must be made with caution, because study designs differ in many ways: for example, the historical period when the population was observed (because overall crime rates varied considerably over the second half of the twentieth century), the period of their lives when the population was observed, the indicator of criminal behaviour which was used (e.g. police contact, arrest, apprehension, or charging; referral to court, or conviction), the range of illegal behaviour which was included (e.g. traffic violations, juvenile status offences such as truancy, etc.) and the juvenile and criminal justice process in effect in the jurisdiction(s) studied — particularly the screening and diversion practices for young persons, which might significantly reduce official reports of offending.

Table 1 summarizes a meta-analysis of findings reported in the literature on the lifetime prevalence of official offending (for a more detailed comparison of the study designs and findings, see Table A1). Lee's (1999, 2000a, 2000b) analysis of Youth Court data for British Columbia for the cohort born in 1972 to 1975 is most comparable with the present study, since it uses one of the same data sources, and its period of observation (1984 to 1993) is only a decade earlier than the period of the present study. However, there are two major differences. First, Lee's study covered only the province of British Columbia, whereas the present study includes six provinces accounting for 78% of the population of Canada. Second, Lee's study did not include adult criminal court data, and therefore did not cover four (crime-prone) years from the 18th to the 21st birthday. Thus, her prevalence estimates should be considerably lower than the present estimates, since Lee's estimates exclude all individuals whose first crime referred to court took place during early adulthood. According to our analyses, approximately 43% of individuals in our population who had court careers fall into this "adult-onset" category⁶; thus, Lee's estimates should be, *ceteris paribus*, approximately 57% of those reported here. In fact, her four reported prevalence estimates are 57%, 57%, 50%, and 60% of the corresponding estimates derived from the present research (see Table 1).

International comparisons are difficult to make, because of different definitions of crime and different justice systems, especially for young persons, who may be subject to widely varying levels of pre-court diversion in different countries. Nevertheless, the prevalence of males ever convicted during the study period in the present research (21 per 100 population) is remarkably similar to the prevalence estimates reported by Prime et al. (2001) for England and Wales (22%), and by Moffitt et al. (2001) for Dunedin, New Zealand (20%). These two studies followed their populations over approximately the same part of their lives as the present study — from the minimum age of criminal responsibility to the age of 21. Two other studies — of subjects in London, England, and Orebro, Sweden — were able to follow their subjects somewhat longer (to the ages of 24 and 29 respectively), and, as expected, report somewhat higher estimates of the prevalence of convictions

among males (33% and 38%). All six of these studies (including the present one) report prevalence of conviction for males as approximately 2% per year of observation. Female prevalence of conviction rates are more variable; being very low, they are less robust.

Table 1
International comparison of findings on lifetime prevalence

Study	Cohort born in	Age range	Number of years	Lifetime prevalence rates					
				Male			Female		
				Referred to court	Convicted	Police record	Referred to court	Convicted	Police record
Canada – 6 provinces (present study)	1979-80	12 to 21	10	28/100	21/100	...	8/100	5/100	...
Canada – B.C. (Lee, 1999, 2000a, 2000b)	1972-75	12 to 17	6	16%	12%	...	4%	3%	...
England and Wales (Prime et al., 2001)	1953	10 to 21	12	...	22%	...	...	4%	...
New Zealand – Dunedin (Moffitt et al., 2001)	1972-73	13 to 21	9	...	20%	...	...	8%	...
England – London (Farrington and Wikström, 1994)	1952-54	10 to 24	15	...	33%	...	...	...	...
Sweden – Orebro (Stattin et al., 1989)	1955	10 to 29	20	...	38%	...	...	9%	...
USA – Providence (Piquero and Buka, 2002)	1960-66	7 to 17	11	19%	...	...	5%	...	...
USA – Phoenix, AZ (Snyder, 1988)	1962-65	7 to 17	11	47%	...	...	22%	...	...
USA – Utah (Snyder, 1988)	1962-65	7 to 17	11	45%	...	...	20%	...	...
Denmark (Kyvsgaard, 2003)	1964-65	15 to 21	7	...	...	37%	...	...	6%
Denmark (Kyvsgaard, 2003)	1964-65	15 to 26	12	...	...	45%	...	...	9%
Japan (Harata, 1994)	1969-70	8 to 18	11	...	...	14%	...	...	5%
Sweden – Stockholm (Wikström, 1990)	1953	13 to 24	12	...	...	31%	...	...	6%
USA – Philadelphia (Tracy et al., 1990)	1945	7 to 17	11	...	...	35%	...	...	...
USA – Philadelphia (Tracy et al., 1990)	1958	7 to 17	11	...	...	33%	...	...	14%

... Not applicable

Note: See Table A1 for details of each study.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort*, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

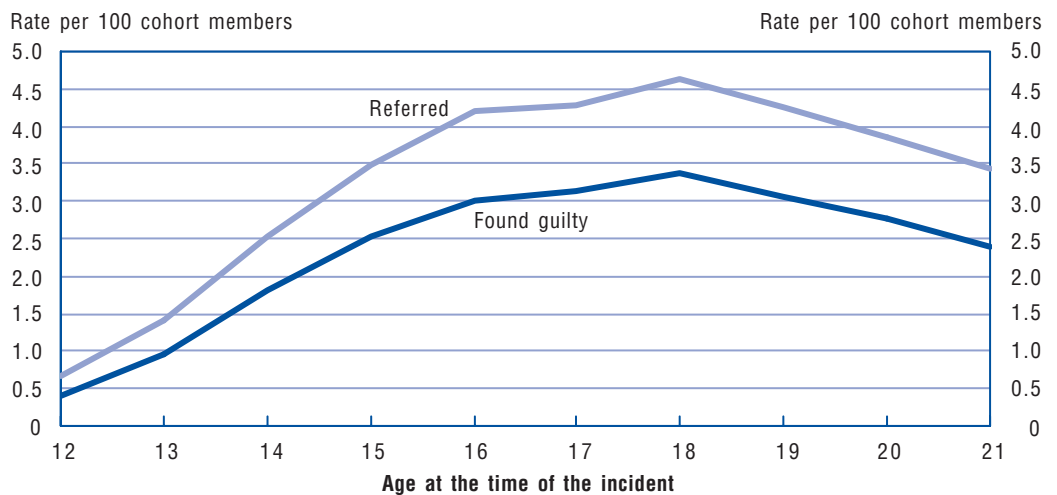
Two American studies report prevalence of referral to court rather than of conviction. One study (for Providence, R.I., reported by Piquero and Buka, 2002) reports a rate of referral of 19% for males and 5% for females, compared to the

present estimates of 28 per 100 and 5 per 100 respectively. However, like Lee’s study of British Columbia, the period of observation in the Piquero and Buka study stops at 17 years of age, and its estimate for male prevalence is very close to the expected 57% of the estimate given by the present study. The other cited American report (Snyder, 1988) gives sex-specific estimates of prevalence of referral to juvenile courts in Phoenix, Arizona and in Utah which are far higher than those reported by other studies; this may be due to the inclusion of juvenile status offences in those studies (see Table A1).

Many studies of criminal careers rely on data from police records rather than court records; their estimates of prevalence are therefore not comparable with those from court studies, since far more people are subject to police “contact”, arrest, apprehension, and charging, than appear in court records, due to police diversion and pre-court screening processes. Therefore, we would expect considerably higher rates of prevalence derived from police data. The last 6 rows of Table 1 show that this is generally the case, although there are large variations within the police-based estimates, partly due to international variations, and partly due to variations in the periods of the individuals’ lives which were studied.

Figure 2 shows the rates per 100 cohort members of referral to court, and of conviction on at least one charge, by year of age at the time of the incident.⁷ Unlike the analysis of lifetime prevalence above, in which a member of the cohort was counted only once if s/he *ever* appeared in court or was convicted during the observation period, members of the cohort are counted in Figure 2 once for each year of age at which they were involved in an incident which resulted in charges referred to court. The proportion referred to court increases with age to 18, then declines. Proportions found guilty follow a similar trend. The small jump in 18 year olds referred to court is probably due partly to the less frequent use of police discretion with adults, and partly to higher rates of drinking-driving offences among adults.⁸

Figure 2
Rates per 100 cohort members of referral to court and conviction, by the age of the accused at the time of the incident



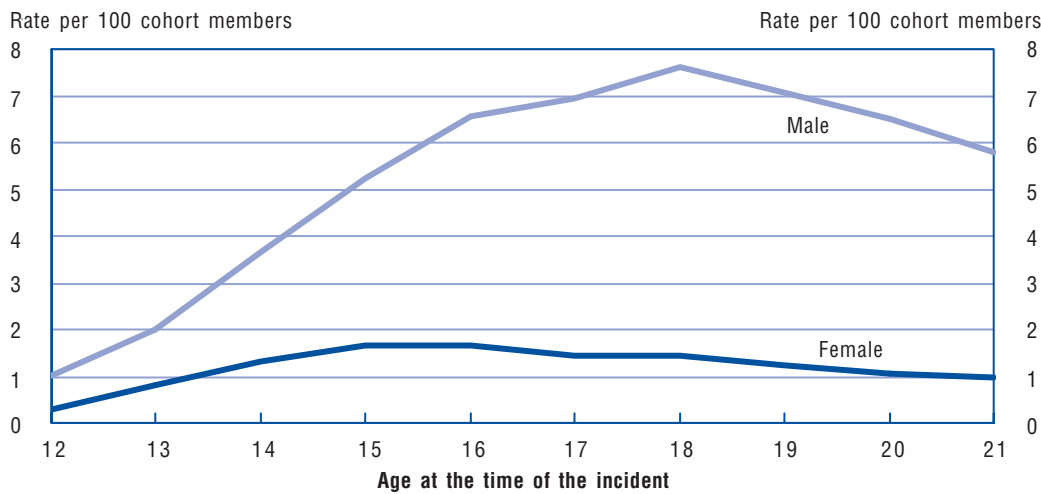
Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Figure 3 shows the rates of referral to court, by age, separately for males and females. Because the number of females referred to court each year is much less than that of males, the changes with age appear less pronounced. In Figure 4, the proportions of females are shown on a different scale, so that the trend can be seen more clearly. Figure 4 shows that the patterns for males and females are similar except that the prevalence among females of referral to court rises relatively faster at young ages, and peaks earlier at the age of 16, when 1.7 per 100 females in the cohort were referred to court. In contrast, 7.6 per 100 males in the cohort were referred to court at the peak male age of prevalence — 18 years.

Figure 3

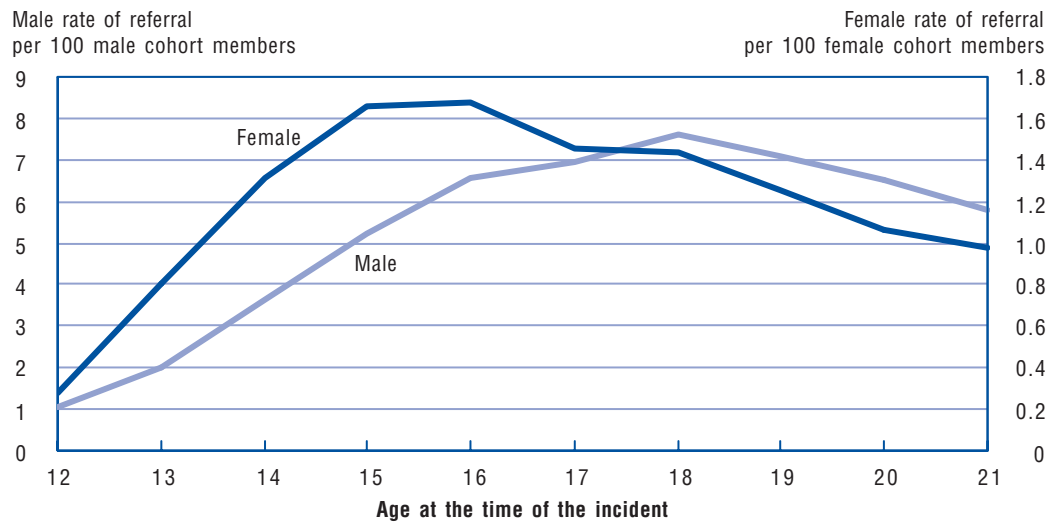
Rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court, by the sex of the accused, and age at the time of the incident



Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort*, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Figure 4
Rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court, by the sex of the accused, and age at the time of the incident (females scaled up)

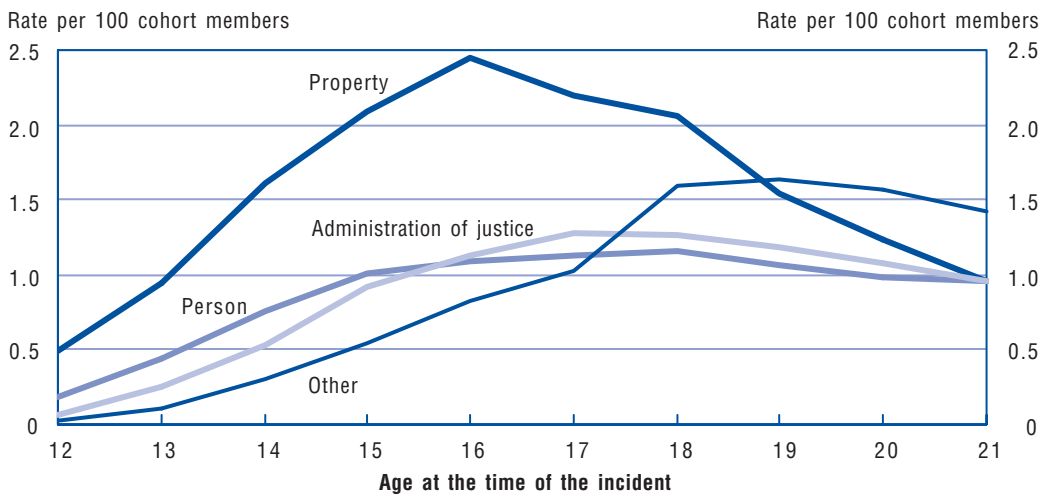


Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.
Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Figure 5 shows the rates of referral to court, by age at the time of the incident, separately for four types of incidents.⁹ Incidents resulting in more than one charge are classified under the most serious charge, so the numbers of people referred to court in cases involving less serious offences, such as administration of justice¹⁰ and other offences, are under-counted. Up to the age of 16, many more people are referred to court for incidents in which the most serious alleged offence is property-related than for other types of incidents. The prevalence of persons referred to court in property-related incidents peaks at the age of 16, then falls quite sharply with age. The rates of referral to court for offences against the administration of justice, offences against the person, and other offences rise to the age of 17, 18, and 19 respectively, then decline slowly with age.

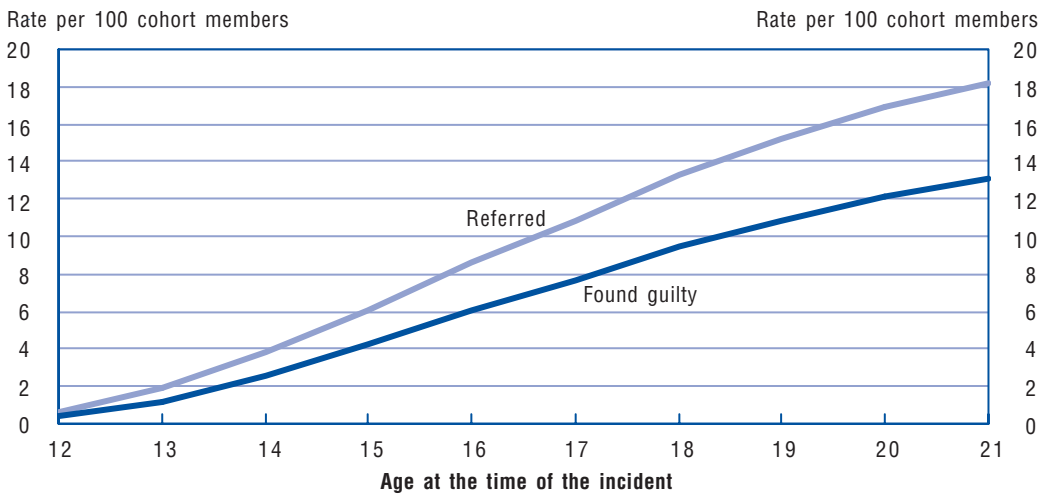
Figure 6 shows the cumulative rates of referral to court, and of conviction, for each year of age up to the age of 22.¹¹ This cumulative prevalence increases fairly rapidly to the age of 16, reflecting the addition of substantial numbers of first-time accused at each age – the “age of onset” (Figure 7). After the age of 16, the number of first offenders declines each year, except for the increase at age 18 (Figure 7),¹² as does the rate of increase in cumulative prevalence (Figure 6). However, the cumulative rate of referral to court is still increasing substantially at the end of the period of observation (the 22nd birthday). The cumulative prevalence of conviction follows a similar pattern.

Figure 5
Rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court, by type of offence and age of the accused at the time of the incident



Note: The offences included in each group are listed in Table 16.
Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.
Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Figure 6
Cumulative rates of referral to court and conviction, by age of the accused at the time of the incident

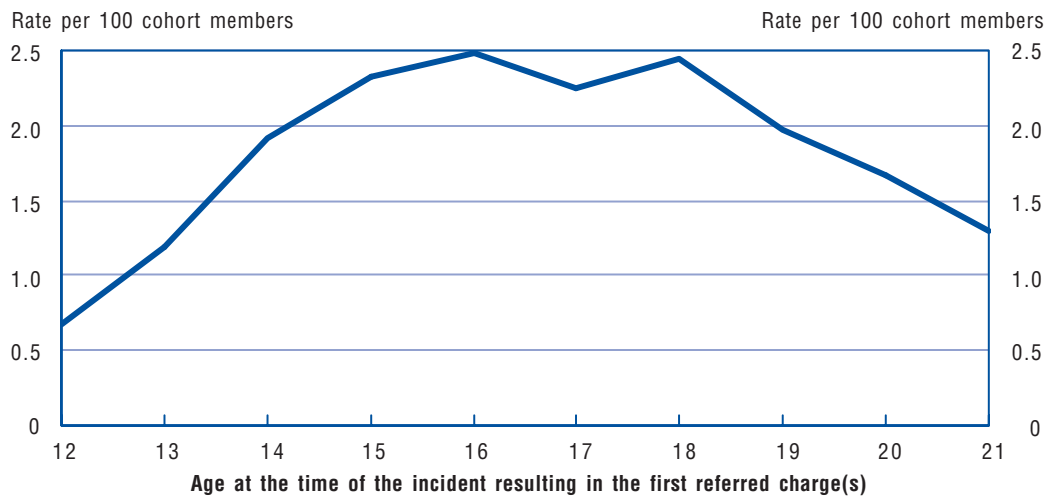


Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.
Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Figure 7 shows that the ages of 15 to 18 are the peak ages of onset of a court career; however, substantial numbers of cohort members are referred to court for the first time at later ages too.¹³ The finding which is widely reported in the literature that criminal careers usually begin in childhood or early adolescence is not supported by these data – at least not in relation to court careers. Four out of ten alleged offenders in this cohort began their court careers in connection with an incident occurring after their 18th birthday. This proportion would probably be considerably higher if cohort members could have been tracked past their 22nd birthdays. The relatively high proportion of late-onset individuals may reflect a tendency on the part of police, prosecutors, and other screening agencies, to deal with alleged offenders younger than 15 by means other than the court process.

Figure 7

Rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court for the first time, by age of the accused at the time of the incident (“age of onset”)



Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

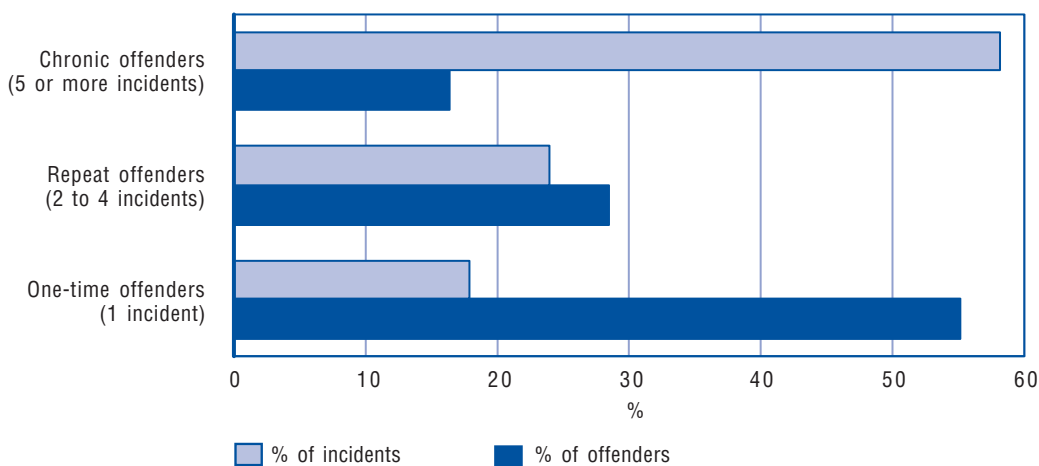
Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Frequency of referral to court

This section examines the frequency of official offending of those members of the cohort who were referred to court at least once between their 12th and 22nd birthdays. For the sake of brevity, they are referred to as “offenders”, although not all were found guilty of the charges on which they appeared in court. By “frequency of official offending”, we refer to the number of criminal incidents in the court career; that is, the number of incidents for which individuals were charged and referred to court.

The mean number of incidents per offender is 3.1 (3.3 for males and 2.4 for females).¹⁴ Just over half (55%) of offenders had a court career consisting of only one incident. Females were more likely (63%) than males (53%) to be one-time offenders. Another 28% of the group, called “repeat offenders”, were referred in relation to 2 to 4 incidents. “Chronic offenders” – defined as persons referred to court in relation to 5 or more incidents – make up the remaining 16% of offenders (18% of male offenders and 11% of females). Although chronic offenders make up only 16% of offenders, they are responsible for 58% of all incidents involving this birth cohort (Figure 8). This pattern is similar to that reported by Wolfgang and his associates in their seminal study of delinquent careers in a Philadelphia cohort, using data from police records (Wolfgang et al. 1972) and by Lee’s study of youth court careers in British Columbia (1999, 2000a, 2000b).

Figure 8
Proportions of offenders and incidents, by number of incidents per person



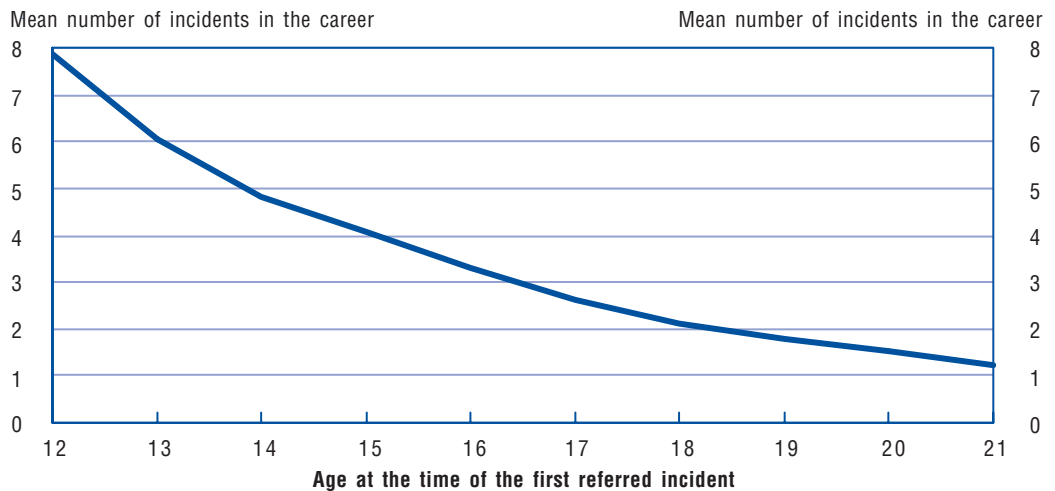
Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort*, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Looking only at incidents involving substantive offences (i.e. excluding incidents which involve only offences against the administration of justice), a similar pattern is evident.¹⁵ The mean number of substantive incidents per offender is 2.4 (2.5 for males and 1.7 for females). Offenders with only one substantive incident make up 60% of substantive offenders, but account for only 24% of substantive incidents. Offenders with 5 or more substantive incidents make up only 12% of the group but account for 46% of all substantive incidents.

There is a strong relationship between the age at which the first referred incident takes place (the age of onset) and the number of incidents in the career. The mean number of incidents in the career decreases rapidly with increasing age of onset (Figure 9). Offenders who began their court career with an incident occurring at age 12 had an average of 7.9 referred incidents, whereas those whose first referred incident occurred at age 21 had an average of only 1.2 incidents.

Figure 9
Mean number of incidents in the career, by the age at the first referred incident



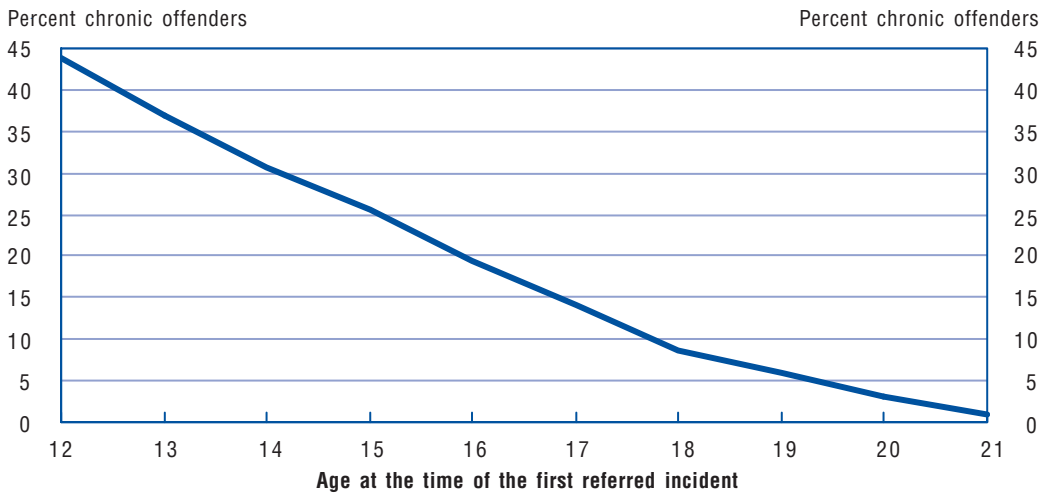
Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Similarly, the proportion of each age-of-onset group who are chronic offenders decreases rapidly with age of onset (Figure 10). Forty-four percent of those whose court career began with an incident at age 12 were chronic offenders, compared to only 1% of those whose court career began at age 21.

Although the probability of being a chronic offender decreases with age of onset (Figure 10), the age-of-onset groups which contribute the greatest number of chronic offenders are those whose first referred incident was at the ages of 14 and 15 (Figure 11). More than half (53%) of all chronic offenders had an age of onset of 14, 15, or 16 years. The reason why those with an age of onset of 12 or 13 years do not figure more prominently among chronic offenders (Figure 11) is simply that relatively few individuals have their first referred offence before the 14th birthday (cf. Figure 7 and related discussion).

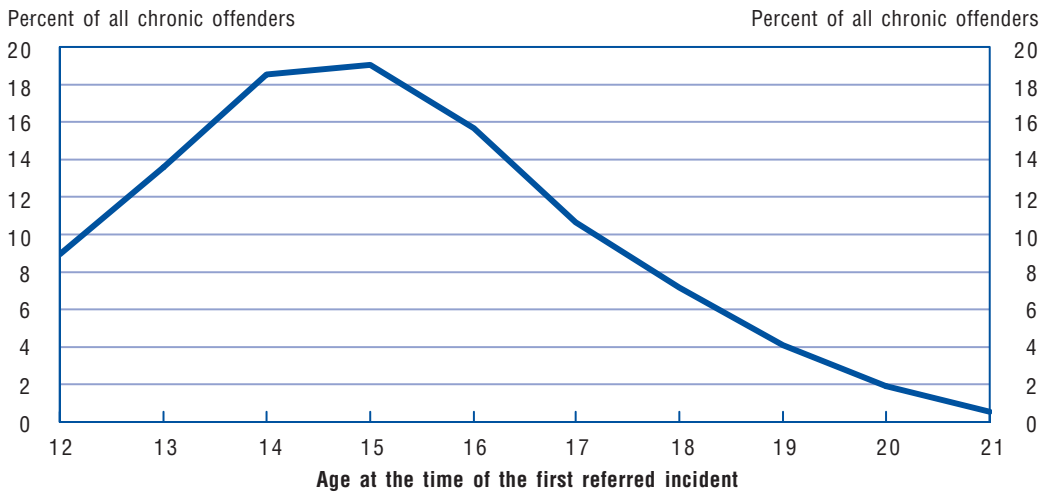
Figure 10
Proportion of each age-of-onset group who were chronic offenders



Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Figure 11
Proportion of all chronic offenders by age at first referred incident



Note: Number = 9,685 chronic offenders.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

For ages of onset of 20 or more, this might be due to the limited observation period (*period at risk*), but for ages of onset earlier than 20 years, the observation period is long enough to capture all the incidents (up to the 22nd birthday) in most careers, since even careers with numerous incidents tend not to extend over many years (see “Duration of the court career” below). The possibility that the larger number of incidents in the careers of persons with an earlier age of onset is due

simply to their longer period at risk, and not to a greater propensity to offend, can be tested using the *mean annual recidivism rate* (Snyder, 1988: 20). The mean annual recidivism rate m for the group of persons who commit their first offence at age a is:

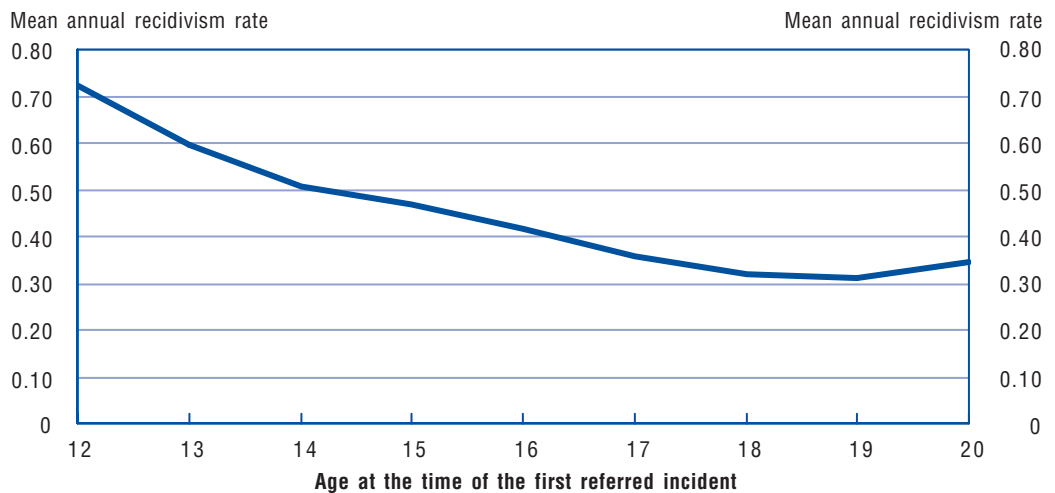
$$m = (n - 1)/(22 - (a + 0.5))$$

where n is the mean number of incidents involving the group, and therefore $(n - 1)$ is the mean number of incidents after the first one. The number of years at risk (the denominator of the rate) is calculated by adding 0.5 years to the age at which the first incident occurred (because, on average, the first incident occurs halfway through the year), and subtracting the result from the age at the end of the observation period (22 years). For example, those in the cohort who committed their first incident at the age of 12 committed, on average, a total of 7.88 incidents before their 22nd birthday. Their mean annual recidivism rate is:

$$(7.88 - 1)/(22 - (12 + 0.5)) = 0.72.$$

If the relationship between the number of incidents and the age of onset (Figure 9) is simply a function of the period at risk, then the mean annual recidivism rate should be independent of the age of onset. Figure 12 shows that this is not the case. The mean annual recidivism rate is highest for those whose first incident occurred at the age of 12, and decreases steadily with age of onset, although this relationship appears to be less pronounced for those who started their (recorded) offending after the age of 17, and is reversed for those with an age of onset of 20 years. This pattern suggests that the propensity to re-offend is greater for those with earlier ages of onset.

Figure 12
Mean annual recidivism rate, by age at the first referred incident



Note: Number = 54,078. Offenders whose first incident occurred at the age of 21 are omitted due to the truncated period of observation.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

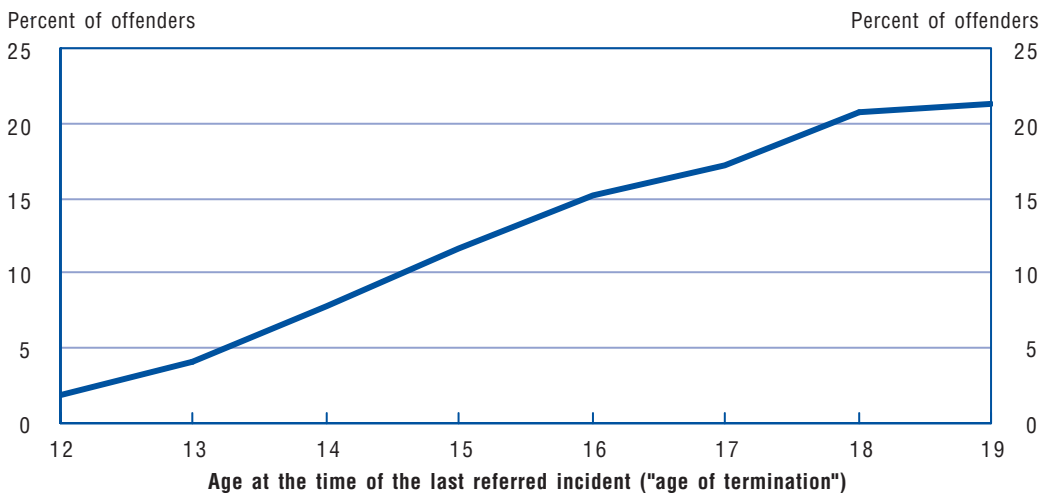
Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Termination of court careers

It is not possible definitively to determine the end of the career (the date of the last referred incident) without tracking people until their death. The usual solution to this problem in research on criminal careers is to define a career as terminated if no offences are committed for some period of time. Therefore a *completed career* is defined in this study as one in which there are no referrals to court for incidents occurring after the 20th birthday. This implies that the person had no referred incidents during a period of at least 3 years, from the 20th birthday to at least the 23rd birthday.¹⁶ The distribution of ages of termination is shown in Figure 13.¹⁷ It appears that the age of termination curve mimics the shape of the age of onset curve (Figure 7), which peaked at the age of 16 – but that the age of termination curve peaks at the age of 19. However, one cannot be sure of this because of the truncated observation period.

Figure 13

Percent of offenders with completed court careers, by age at the last incident referred to court



Note: Number = 37,213. Offenders with incidents occurring after the 20th birthday are omitted because their careers are considered not to be completed. The reduction in the slope of the curve at age 19 may be due to the truncated observation period.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort*, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Duration of court careers

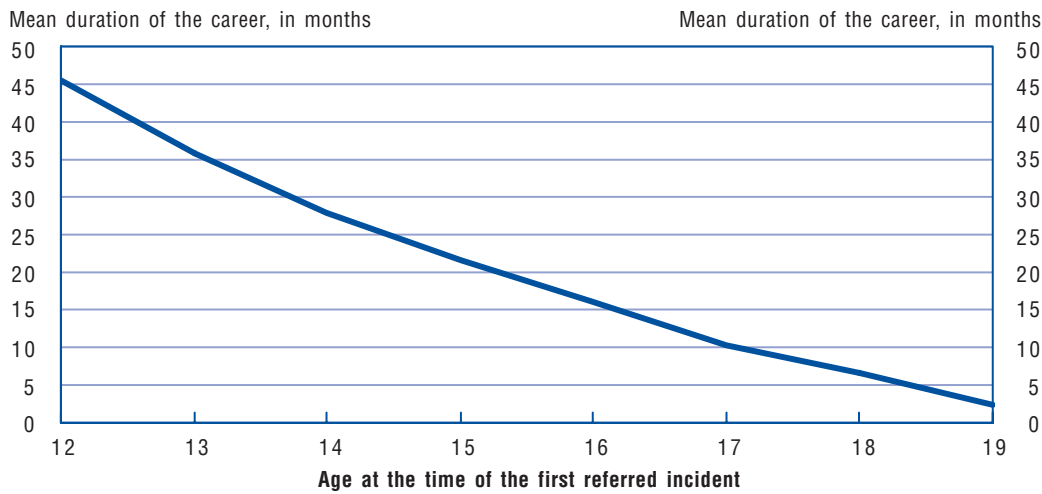
The duration of the court career refers to the length of time between the date of the first referred criminal incident and the date of the last. Like the age of termination of the court career, discussed in the previous section, the duration of the career can only be calculated for completed careers. Also, this concept does not apply to one-time offenders, so the discussion which follows concerns the offenders who were referred to court for 2 or more incidents. Thus the population for this analysis is defined as persons referred to court in connection with 2 or more incidents occurring before their 20th birthday, and no incidents between their 20th birthday and the end of the observation period (March 31, 2003). This population makes up 24% (13,893) of the overall population of offenders (59,000).

Of this group of offenders, 72% are repeat offenders, with 2 to 4 referred incidents in their careers, and the remaining 28% are chronic offenders, with 5 or more incidents. The mean and median numbers of incidents in the entire group are 4.3 and 3; among chronic offenders, the mean and median numbers of incidents are 9.0 and 7. The representation of female offenders (20%) in this subset of chronic offenders with careers completed before the 20th birthday is proportionate to their representation in the overall offender group in the birth cohort (21%). The mean and median numbers of incidents in the careers of chronic female offenders (8.5 and 7, respectively) are also very similar to those of male chronic offenders (9.1 and 7).

The mean length of completed careers is 20 months, and the median length is 13 months. One quarter of offenders with completed careers have careers lasting 3 months or less, and one quarter have careers lasting 32 months or more. Among chronic offenders, the mean career length is 34 months, and the median is 32 months. The mean and median career lengths of female chronic offenders are a little shorter than those of the males: 31 and 27 months, versus 35 and 33 months for males. The mean duration of the completed court career, like the mean number of incidents in the career, has a strong inverse relationship with the age at the time of the first referred incident (Figure 14).

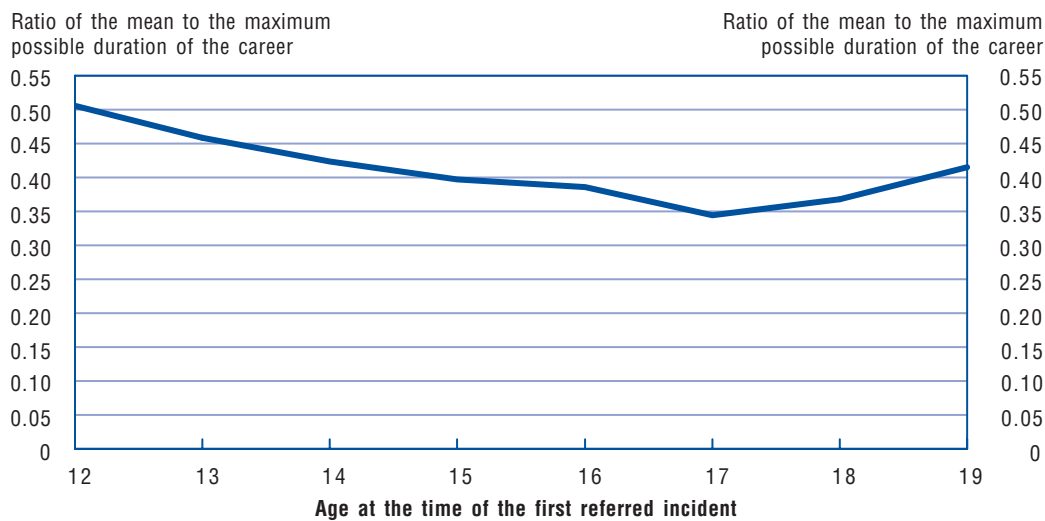
As was the case with the frequency of offending, the short durations of the late onset careers are partly due to the limit on the period of observation. The analysis was restricted to careers which ended by the 20th birthday, so individuals who committed their first offence at the age of 19, for example, had careers which were artificially limited, on average, to 6 months; whereas, those starting their careers at the age of 12 had a maximum possible average career length of 7.5 years. If we compensate for the differing maximum possible career lengths by dividing the mean duration of the career by the maximum possible career length (giving the ratio of duration to maximum possible duration), there is still an inverse relationship between age of onset and career length up to the age of 17 (Figure 15).¹⁸

Figure 14
Mean duration of the completed court career, by age at the first referred incident



Note: Number = 13,854 offenders with completed careers comprising 2 or more incidents.
Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.
Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Figure 15
The ratio of the mean duration to the maximum possible duration of the criminal career, by age at the first referred incident



Note: Number = 13,854 offenders with completed careers comprising 2 or more incidents.
Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.
Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

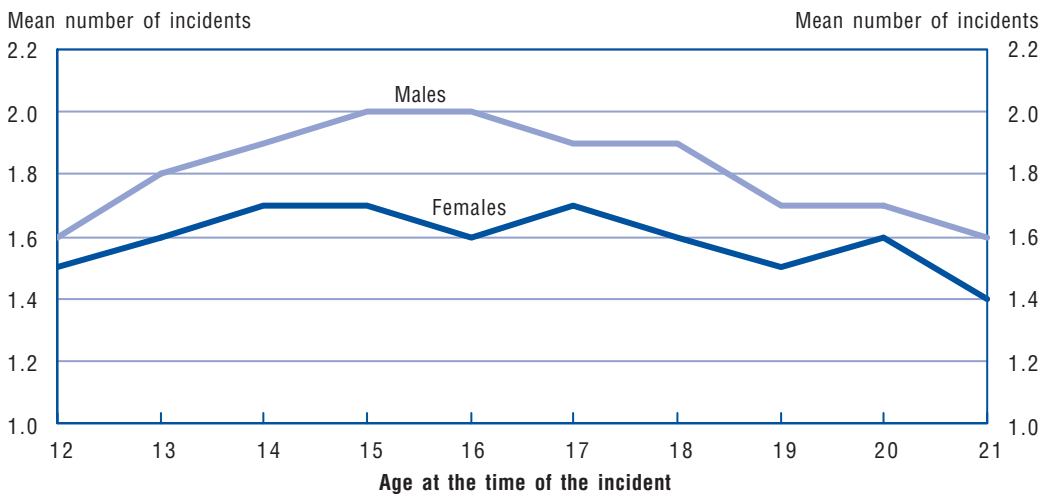
Rate of referral to court

A previous section of this paper discussed the frequency of alleged offending of members of the cohort – that is, the total number of incidents for which they were referred to court. Here we discuss the *intensity* or *rate of alleged offending* – that is, the number of incidents referred to court during a fixed time period. This indicator is denoted by the Greek letter λ (lambda) in the criminal careers literature. Various definitions and corresponding formulae for λ have been used (see Piquero et al., 2003 for a review). A simple and commonly used definition of age-specific λ for an individual is simply the number of criminal incidents in which the individual was involved during a given year of age. Thus, λ_a is defined as the annual rate of offending of an offender at age a , which is equal to o_a , the number of incidents involving the offender at age a . For a population of offenders, the (mean) value of age-specific λ is the total number of incidents involving members of the population at a given age, divided by the number of “active” members, i.e. members who were involved in any incidents at that age. For example, the population mean of λ_{12} is given by $\sum \lambda_{12} / k_{12}$, where k_{12} is the number of offenders who committed any offences at age 12 (i.e. for whom $\lambda_{12} > 0$). This is equal to $\sum o_{12} / k_{12}$, or the total number of incidents involving persons aged 12 years divided by the number of such offenders (Cohen, 1986: 295).

Mean age-specific rates of offending by sex for the cohort are shown in Figure 16.¹⁹ There is little difference between male and female rates of offending at most ages, and similar patterns of change with age. The peak is at 15 years for males (2.0 incidents) and 14 for females (1.7 incidents), then there is a slow decline to 1.6 incidents (for males) and 1.4 (for females) at 21 years of age. A similar pattern obtains for males when age-specific offending is restricted to substantive incidents²⁰ (Figure 17),²¹ but for females, there is little variation with age in the rate of substantive offending.

Figure 16

Mean annual number of incidents involving active offenders (λ), by sex and age at the time of the incident

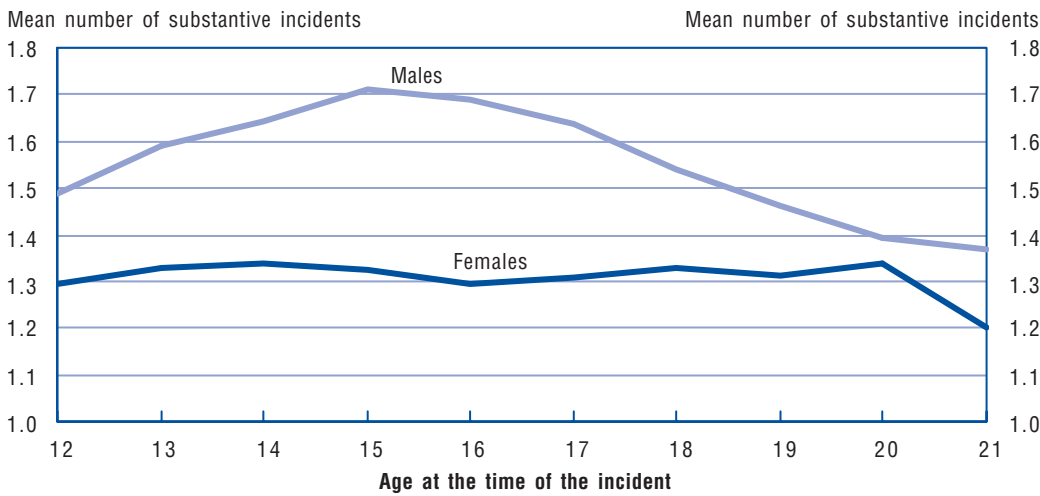


Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Figure 17

Mean annual number of substantive incidents involving active offenders (λ), by sex and age at the time of the incident

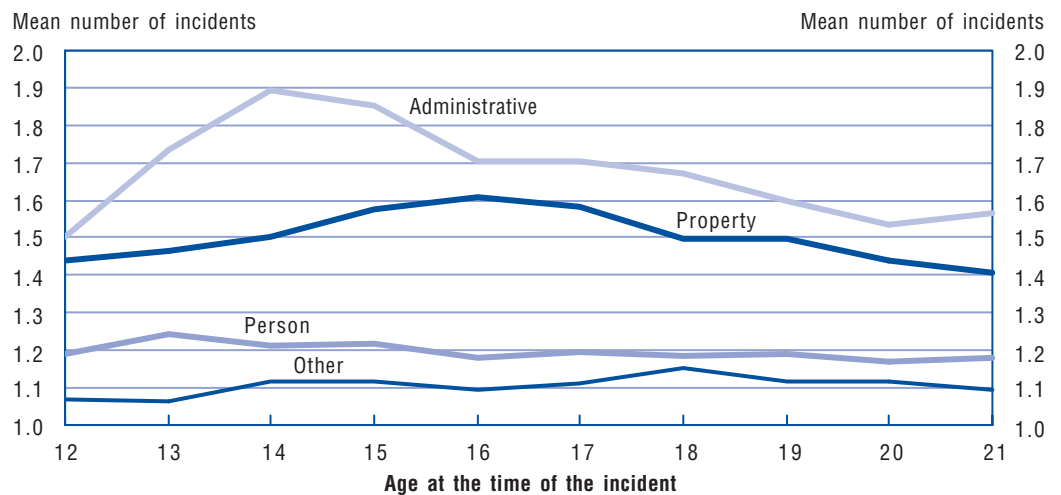


Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Figure 18 shows age-specific rates of offending for four types of incidents.²² The denominators for the calculations of the mean number of incidents at each age are the number of offenders who were involved in at least one of that type of incident at that age. For example, the mean rate of incidents of offences against the person for 12 year olds is 1.2, based on the 529 12 year old offenders who were referred to court on charges arising from incidents involving an alleged offence against the person. There is no apparent age-related pattern in the rates of commission of offences against the person and other offences, but the intensity of property offending peaks at 16 years, and then declines; and the rate of administrative offending has a high peak at 14 years and then declines with age.

Figure 18
Mean annual number of incidents committed by active offenders (λ), by type of incident and age at the time of the incident



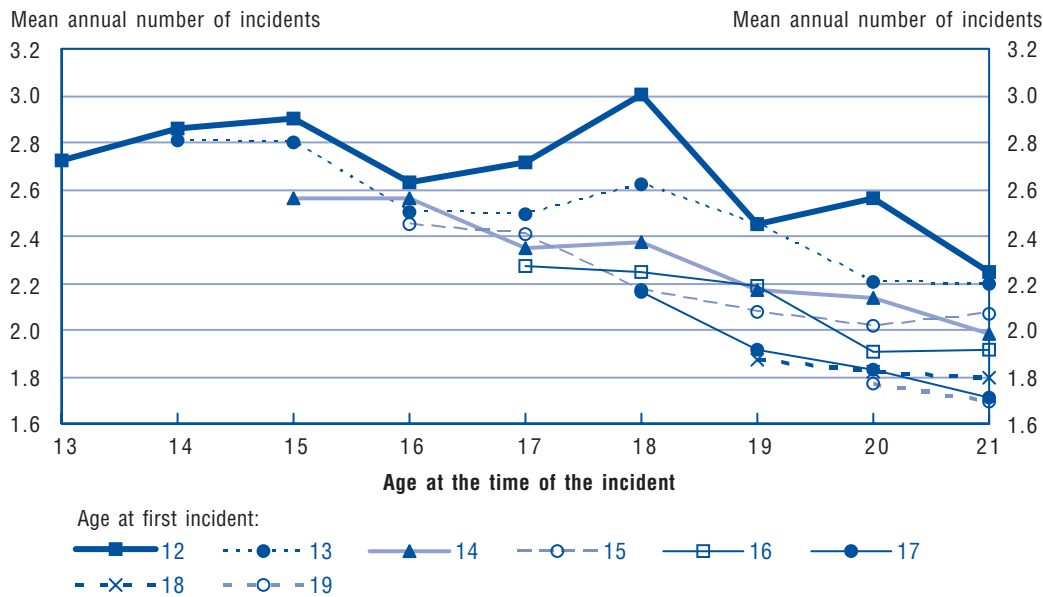
Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Figure 19 shows mean age-specific rates of offending for offenders with different ages of onset. For each group with a specific age of onset, that year of age is omitted from the plot. For example, for offenders with an age of onset of 12 years, the first year shown is 13 years. This is because the rate of offending is artificially low during the year of onset because, on average, only half a year is available for offending. Two patterns are evident. First, the mean annual rate of offending for each age group is higher for offenders with earlier ages of onset. For example, the mean rates of offending at 18 years of age for offenders with ages of onset of 12, 13, 14, and 15 years of age are 3.0, 2.6, 2.4, and 2.2 incidents per year, respectively. Second, within each group of offenders with the same age of onset, the mean annual rate of offending is highest at the beginning of the career, then slowly declines with age. For example, the peak period of activity of offenders whose first referred incident occurred at the age of 13 was at the ages of 14 and 15, when they were involved in an average of 2.8 incidents per year. After that, their annual activity declined slowly to an average of 2.2 incidents at the ages of 20 and 21.

Figure 19

Mean annual number of incidents involving active offenders (λ), by age at the time of the incident, and age at the first referred incident (age of onset)



Note: Offenders whose first referred incident occurred after the 19th birthday are omitted.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Types of court careers

The literature on criminal careers is replete with attempts to characterize the entire career by simple typologies. These typologies fall into three groups (which are not entirely mutually exclusive), which characterize the career by:

- The mix of types of offences committed
- Changes over time in the seriousness of the offences committed
- The relationship of the career to stages in the life-course.

The first approach to characterizing criminal careers asks whether the offender *specializes* in one type of offence (e.g. violent or property), or is a *generalist* (or *versatile offender*) who commits various types of offences. The second approach examines the sequence of offences and asks whether they tend to become more serious (*escalation*), less serious (*de-escalation*), or neither (*stability*). The third approach classifies careers as to whether they are limited to the teenage years (*adolescent-limited*), limited to the adult years (*adult-onset*), or whether they continue from adolescence into adulthood (*persistent*) (Wolfgang et al. 1987: 21). Each of these three approaches is adopted in the following sections.

The mix of offences referred to court

In assessing specialization and versatility in the types of offences committed, most researchers consider only substantive offences, and ignore offences against the administration of justice, such as failure to appear for court, and violations of bail and probation conditions. The following discussion emphasizes substantive offences, but alludes also to administrative offences when they are relevant.²³

We define a *specialized* offender as one whose court career includes charges on only one of the three types of substantive offence (offences against the person, property, or other offences), with or without administrative offences, or whose court career consists entirely of administrative offences.²⁴ A *versatile* offender is one whose career includes charges on at least two of the three types of substantive offences. In this analysis, all charges against an offender are considered – in contrast to the analyses reported earlier in this paper, where only the most serious charge in an incident was used to characterize the incident. Thus, an offender is classified as versatile if s/he was referred to court on a property charge and a charge for an offence against the person, even if the charges arose from same incident.

Of the entire population of offenders, approximately two-thirds are specialized (Table 2).²⁵ Of the offenders specialized in substantive offences, 20% were also referred to court for administrative offences, and 80% were not. Among the remaining one-third of the population who were versatile, 57% had administrative charges in addition to their substantive charges. Thus, versatility in substantive offending is associated with also being charged with administrative offences. Twelve percent of the population were super-versatile, having all 3 types of substantive offences – these were also the most likely (79%) to have administrative offences in their court careers.

Table 2
The mix of charges in court careers

	Total		No administrative offences		With administrative offences	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Specialized						
Person	12.0	7,079	84.0	5,943	16.0	1,136
Property	29.7	17,507	80.8	14,138	19.2	3,369
Other	20.5	12,101	89.3	10,809	10.7	1,292
Administrative	3.1	1,815	...	...	100.0	1,815
Subtotal specialized	65.3	38,502	80.2	30,890	19.8	7,612
Versatile						
Person, property	6.6	3,897	47.4	1,849	52.6	2,048
Person, other	4.7	2,781	67.7	1,882	32.3	899
Property, other	11.9	6,996	52.4	3,667	47.6	3,329
Person, property, other	11.6	6,820	21.4	1,459	78.6	5,361
Subtotal versatile	34.7	20,494	43.2	8,857	56.8	11,637
Total	100.0	58,996	67.4	39,747	32.6	19,249

... Not applicable

Notes: See the text for definitions of the types of careers.

Totals do not add to 59,000, due to rounding error.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

More than half (55%) of the offenders had careers consisting of only one incident (see “Frequency of referral to court”, above). Most of these offenders are classified in Table 2 as specialists, but the term is rather vacuous in application to one-time offenders, since most of them have only one charge in their “career”.²⁶ Therefore, the following analysis is restricted to the careers of the 45% of offenders with at least 2 referred incidents, termed “repeat offenders”.²⁷ Table 3 shows the distribution of their careers.²⁸

Table 3
The mix of charges in court careers which have more than 1 incident

	Total		No administrative offences		With administrative offences	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Specialized						
Person	6.0	1,578	40.5	639	59.5	939
Property	19.9	5,263	43.4	2,282	56.6	2,981
Other	8.0	2,125	51.0	1,083	49.0	1,042
Administration of justice	1.1	293	...	...	100.0	293
Subtotal specialized	35.0	9,259	43.2	4,004	56.8	5,255
Versatile						
Person, property	12.5	3,307	40.5	1,338	59.5	1,969
Person, other	6.8	1,804	54.6	985	45.4	819
Property, other	20.8	5,509	42.6	2,346	57.4	3,163
Person, property, other	24.9	6,578	19.3	1,272	80.7	5,306
Subtotal versatile	65.0	17,198	34.5	5,941	65.5	11,257
Total	100.0	26,457	37.6	9,945	62.4	16,512

... Not applicable

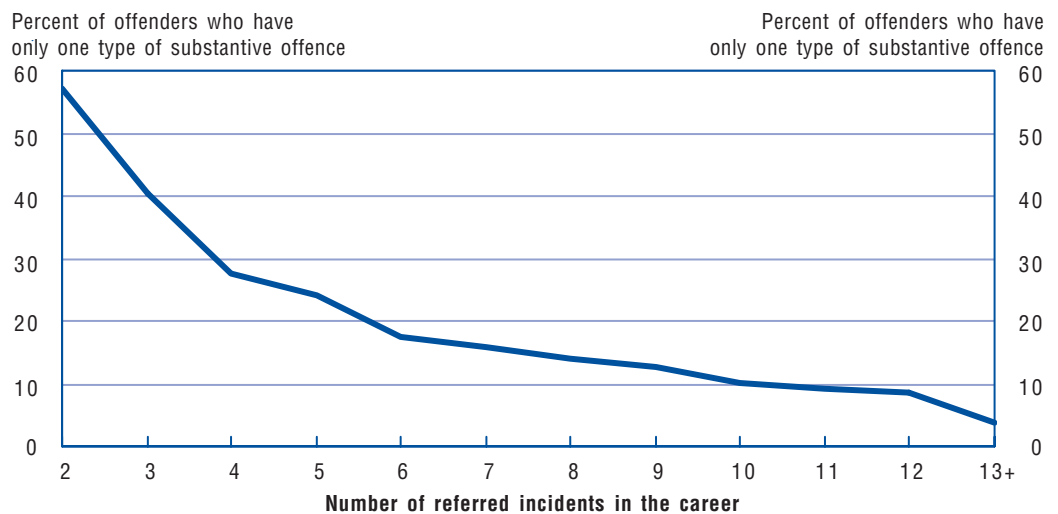
Note: See notes to Table 2.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Among repeat offenders, the overall split between versatile and specialized offenders is reversed: approximately one-third (35%) are specialized and two-thirds are versatile. Of the specialized repeat offenders, more than half (57%) also had administrative charges. Overall, 62% of repeat offenders had administrative charges. Repeat offenders specializing in offences against the person or in other offences are comparatively rare — 6% and 8% of repeat offenders respectively — whereas 20% of repeat offenders specialize in property offences. Among versatile repeat offenders, the most common are those who have been charged with all three types of substantive offences, who constitute 25% of all repeat offenders. Of these, 81% also have been charged with administrative offences. Thus, approximately one-fifth of all repeat offenders (81% of 25%) have careers including charges on all four types of offences. Female repeat offenders are more likely to be specialized than males (48% of females vs. 32% of males; see Table A18). This is probably due to the smaller average number of incidents in female court careers. Other than this, male and female patterns of specialization and versatility are similar.

Figure 20
Specialization in offending by the number of referred incidents in the career, repeat offenders only

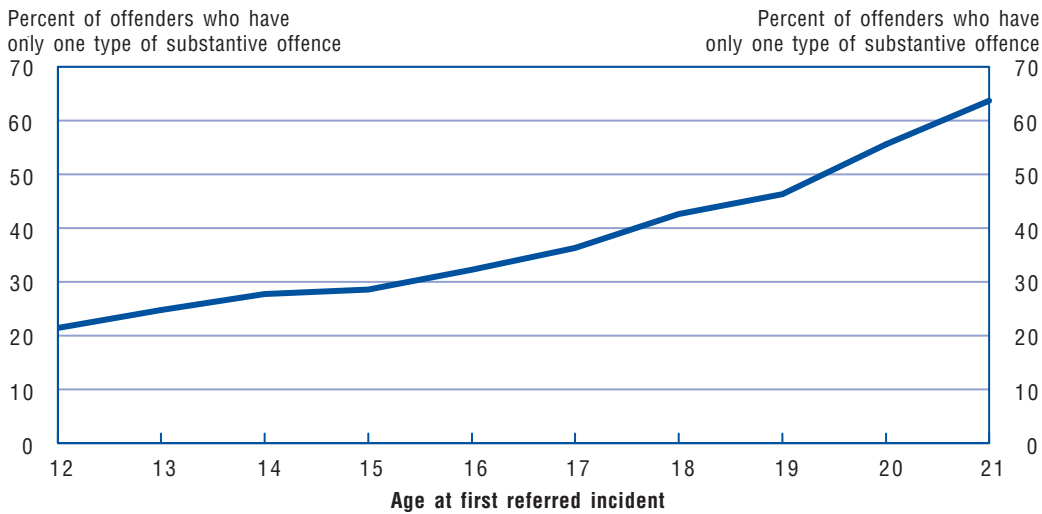


Note: Number = 26,457 repeat offenders.
Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.
Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Figure 20 shows the relationship between the number of incidents in the repeat offender’s career, and specialization in offending. Fifty-seven percent of offenders referred to court for only 2 incidents are specialists in one category of substantive offence. This proportion of specialists decreases fairly sharply with the number of incidents in the career to 17% of those referred to court in connection with 6 incidents, then falls slowly to 4% of the offenders having 13 or more incidents in their court careers. This pattern suggests that versatility and specialization in offending are not so much the expression of tendencies on the part of offenders, but simply a result of the volume of criminal activity: the more incidents, the less likely that they will be limited to one type.

Figure 21

Specialization in offending by age at the first referred incident, repeat offenders only



Note: Number = 26,457 repeat offenders.

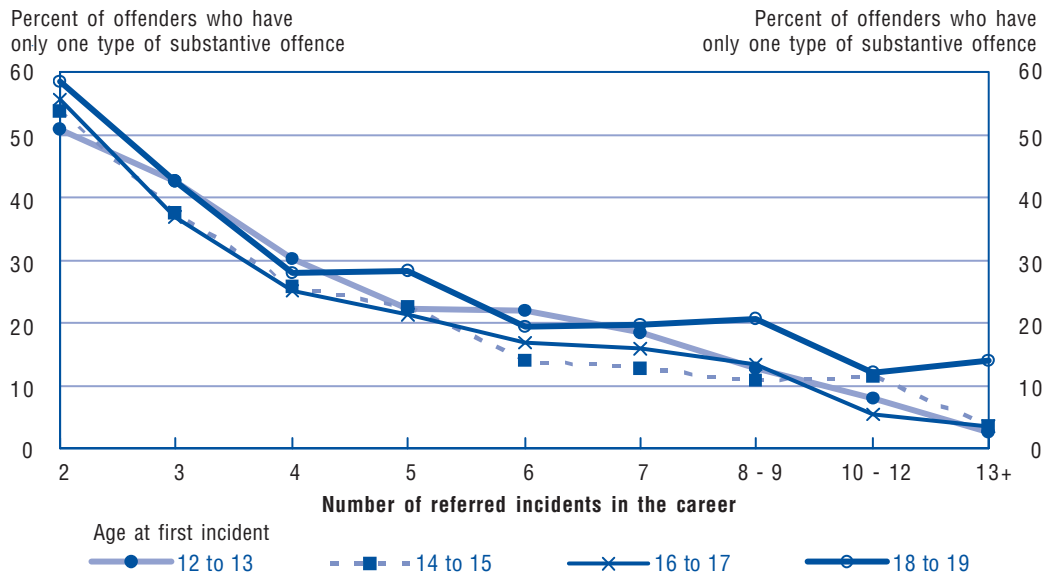
Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

The proportion of specialized offenders increases with age at the first referred incident (Figure 21). This may be simply a result of the fact that the number of (referred) incidents in the career decreases with age of onset (Figure 9), and specialization has an inverse relationship with the number of referred incidents (Figure 20). The relative contributions of the number of incidents committed, and the age of onset, to the likelihood of specialization can be shown by plotting the proportion of specialized offenders by the number of incidents in the career, while controlling for age of onset. This is done in Figure 22, in which proportions of specialists are plotted by the number of referred incidents in the career, for each of four groups of offenders, classified by the age at the time of the first referred incident: 12 to 13 years, 14 to 15, 16 to 17, and 18 to 19.²⁹ There is practically no difference in the relationship when the age of onset is controlled: the likelihood of specialization is still strongly inversely related to the number of referred incidents, but not to the age at onset.

Figure 22

Specialization in offending by the number of referred incidents in the career, controlling for age at the first referred incident



Note: Number = 24,200 repeat offenders whose first referred incident occurred before the 20th birthday.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Changes over the career in the seriousness of referred incidents

A second way of characterizing criminal careers is by the change, if any, in the seriousness of the offences, as the career progresses: whether the offences tend to become more serious (escalation), less serious (de-escalation), or remain at the same level of seriousness (stability). The analyses which follow are restricted to substantive incidents – i.e. incidents resulting in at least one charge for a substantive offence – and to the 13,767 offenders who were referred to court in relation to at least 3 substantive incidents. A complete analysis of changes in seriousness during the career would take into account each incident in the career; however, for the sake of simplicity, only the first and last substantive incident are considered here. The seriousness of each incident is measured on a 6 point scale, on the basis of the most serious charge resulting from the incident.³⁰

Table 4 shows the transition probabilities from first to last incident in the court career. Escalation in seriousness during the career is indicated by a last incident which is more serious than the first incident – these cells are below the diagonal in Table 4. De-escalation in seriousness is indicated by a final incident which is less serious than the first — these cells are above the diagonal in Table 4. Stability is indicated by first and last incidents of the same level of seriousness — these cells occur on the diagonal of Table 4, which is highlighted.

Table 4

The change in seriousness from first to last referred incident in the court career, offenders with 3 or more substantive incidents

First substantive referred incident	Last substantive referred incident						Row total	Total
	Person		Property		Other			
	Indictable	Hybrid	Indictable	Summary/ hybrid	Indictable	Summary/ hybrid		
	Percentage							
Indictable person	19.2	22.8	13.4	16.9	10.3	17.3	100.0	10.1
Hybrid person	10.3	30.3	9.6	23.1	4.0	22.8	100.0	14.8
Indictable property	8.7	17.5	21.6	24.6	8.3	19.3	100.0	26.3
Summary/hybrid property	7.0	16.9	15.1	33.3	5.1	22.5	100.0	35.0
Indictable other	12.9	17.1	11.8	19.2	15.6	23.3	100.0	4.4
Summary/hybrid other	5.7	18.6	9.9	20.7	5.6	39.4	100.0	9.5
Total percentage	9.3	19.8	15.2	26.0	6.8	22.8	100.0	100.0
Number	1,189	2,528	1,940	3,324	873	2,915	12,769	...

... Not applicable

Notes: Row percentages are shown in the cells, i.e. the percentage of offenders with a given type of first offence who had each type of last offence. Diagonal cells, indicating stability, are highlighted.

629 offenders (4.6%) were omitted from the analysis because the classification of the most serious charge in the first or last referred incident was not known.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table 5 summarizes the findings from Table 4. There is no pronounced tendency to escalation, stability, or de-escalation. Substantial proportions of court careers fall into each type, although the most frequent pattern is, surprisingly, de-escalation (41% of offenders), and the least frequent pattern is stability (28%). Indeed, the most serious charge in the last incident on which a very substantial proportion of offenders (23%) are referred to court is a summary or hybrid “other” offence, which is the least serious category; whereas, the most serious charge in the most common type of first incident in these careers is a minor property offence (35% of

offenders). Table 5 shows that the likelihood of escalation or de-escalation in offending is strongly related to the seriousness of the first referred incident: court careers which begin with more serious incidents are the most likely to exhibit de-escalation, whereas careers which begin with incidents involving a less serious “other” offence are the most likely to escalate in seriousness.

Table 5

Summary of change in seriousness from first to last referred incident in the court career, offenders with 3 or more substantive incidents

First substantive referred incident	Last substantive referred incident				Total
	Escalation	Stability	De-escalation	Percentage	
Indictable person	...	19.2	80.8	100.0	10.1
Hybrid person	10.2	30.3	59.5	100.0	14.8
Indictable property	26.2	21.6	52.2	100.0	26.3
Summary/hybrid property	39.1	33.3	27.6	100.0	35.0
Indictable other	61.1	15.6	23.3	100.0	4.4
Summary/hybrid other	60.6	39.4	...	100.0	9.5
Total percentage	30.5	28.2	41.4	100.0	100.0
Number	3,891	3,595	5,283	...	12,769

... Not applicable

Notes: Percentages in cells above the diagonal in Table 4 are included under De-escalation in Table 5; those on the diagonal in Table 4 are under Stability in Table 5; those below the diagonal in Table 4 are under Escalation in Table 5. Contents of the Total rows of Table 5 were calculated by summing the raw numbers underlying the percentages in the relevant cells of Table 4.

629 offenders (4.6%) were omitted from the analysis because the classification of the most serious charge in the first or last referred incident was not known.

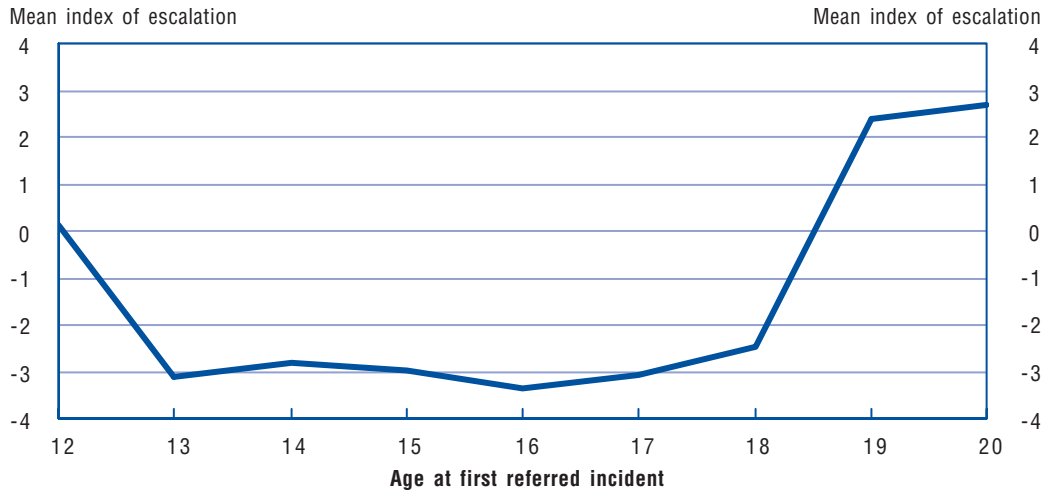
Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Change over the career in the seriousness of offending can also be assessed using the values of the *seriousness scale* of the first and last substantive incident. The seriousness scale was developed by Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to rank the seriousness of criminal offences. It is based on the average length of prison sentence imposed on convicted charges between 1994/95 and 2000/01 in criminal court (Robinson, 2004: 10). Its value is inversely related to the seriousness of the offence, and ranges from 1 for “First degree murder” to 112 for “Other federal statute offences”. Thus, if the *index of escalation* is defined as the difference between the value of the seriousness scale of the most serious charge in the first substantive incident and that of the last substantive incident, then a positive value of the index indicates escalation,³¹ a negative value indicates de-escalation, and a value of zero indicates stability. The theoretical maximum value of the index of escalation is +111, which would result from a career whose first referred incident involved a charge of “other federal statute offences” (with a seriousness value of 112), and whose final incident resulted in a charge of first degree murder (with a seriousness value of 1). The theoretical minimum value is -111, which would characterize a career with the reverse of this sequence of charges. Among the 13,767 offenders with 3 or more referred substantive incidents, values of the index of escalation range from 104 to -104. The mean is -2.3, indicating a very small net amount of de-escalation; the median value is 0, indicating stability, or a balance of escalation and de-escalation.

Figure 23 shows the mean value of the index of escalation plotted against the age at the time of the first referred incident.³² Offenders with ages of onset up to 18 years have careers characterized by de-escalation; then there is an increase in the mean index value to positive values (indicating escalation) for ages of onset of 19 and 20 years. However, the mean values for offenders with all ages of onset, from 12 to 20 years of age, are within a narrow range (from -4 to +3), indicating substantial balance between escalation and de-escalation for all ages of onset.

Figure 23

Mean value of the index of escalation, by age of onset

Note: Number = 13,767 offenders with 3 or more referred substantive incidents. Offenders with an age of onset of 21 years are omitted because of small numbers and insufficient length of time in the career to assess escalation.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Figure source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

A life-course typology of court careers

A third method of classifying delinquent careers asks whether they are limited to the adolescent years (*adolescent-limited*), limited to the adult years (*adult-onset*), or continue through both parts of the life-course (*persistent*) (Wolfgang et al., 1987: 21; Sampson & Laub, 1993). In the present analysis, an adolescent-limited career is defined as one with no referred incidents occurring after the 18th birthday. A persistent career is defined as one in which the first incident occurred before the 18th birthday, and there was at least one referred incident after the 18th birthday. An *adult onset* offender is defined as one whose first referred incident occurred after the 18th birthday. Table 6 shows the distribution in the population of offenders. Female offenders are more likely than males to have delinquent careers which terminate before the 18th birthday, and less likely to have persistent careers.

Table 6

Distribution of the population of offenders according to the life-course typology of careers

Typology of careers	Male	Female	Total
	Percentage		
Adolescent-limited	33.0	50.4	36.6
Persistent	22.3	13.1	20.4
Adult onset	44.7	36.5	43.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	46,908	12,092	59,000

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

One of the common findings in the criminal careers literature is that persistent offenders tend to commit more, and more serious, crime than adolescent-limited offenders (e.g. Moffitt, 1993). This is certainly borne out by the present data. Persistent offenders have, on average, more than four times as many incidents in their court careers as adolescent-limited or adult onset offenders (Table 7). There is little difference between the mean activity levels of male and female offenders with each type of career (Table 7): the sex difference lies in the distribution into the three types (Table 6).

Table 7

Mean number of referred incidents in the court career, by sex and type of career

Typology of careers	Male	Female	Total	Total number
Adolescent-limited	1.95	1.85	1.92	21,565
Persistent	8.30	6.68	8.09	12,032
Adult onset	1.75	1.56	1.72	25,403
Total	3.28	2.38	3.09	...
Total number	46,909	12,091	59,000	...

... Not applicable

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

There are various ways in which one might assess the overall seriousness of the incidents in a court career. Table 8 shows the distribution of court careers by the most serious charge in the career³³ and the life-course typology. Persistent offenders are much more likely to have an offence against the person as their most serious charge; whereas adolescent-limited offenders are much more likely to have a property offence, and adult onset offenders an “other” offence. There is little difference by sex in this distribution.³⁴

Table 8

The most serious charge in the court career, by type of career

Most serious charge in the career	Adolescent-limited	Persistent	Adult onset	Total number
				Percentage
Person	29.4	62.0	26.5	34.8
Property	51.9	28.7	30.5	37.9
Other	13.3	7.7	36.6	22.2
Administrative	5.4	1.6	6.4	5.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	21,565	12,032	25,403	59,000

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table 9 compares court careers using the mean of the seriousness scores of the most serious charge (and therefore, most serious incident) in each offender’s career. The careers of persistent offenders have by far the lowest mean, indicating that this kind of offender has, on average, a career which includes at least one much more serious charge than the other two types of offenders. As with the other comparisons (above), there are only small differences between male and female offenders, once they are classified by type of career.

Table 9

Mean seriousness index of the most serious charge in the court career, by sex and type of career

Typology of careers	Male	Female	Total	Total number
Adolescent-limited	56.6	60.4	57.7	21,565
Persistent	35.8	40.0	36.4	12,032
Adult onset	66.9	66.1	66.8	25,403
Total	56.6	59.8	57.2	...
Total number	46,909	12,091	59,000	...

... Not applicable

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

In Table 10, the mean seriousness of the most serious charge in *each* of the incidents in the career³⁵ is compared across the three types of careers. There is little difference between the three types of careers. In fact, adolescent-limited careers have, on average, the most serious mix of incidents (lowest mean seriousness index), although all three types of careers are very similar in this respect. The results from Tables 9 and 10, taken together, suggest that the persistent offenders include the least as well as the most serious types of incidents in their careers.

Table 10

Mean seriousness index of the most serious charge in all the referred incidents in the court career, by sex and the type of career

Typology of careers	Male	Female	Total	Total number
Adolescent-limited	62.5	65.9	63.4	21,565
Persistent	66.6	67.8	66.8	12,032
Adult onset	73.5	70.4	73.0	25,403
Total	68.3	67.8	68.2	...
Total number	46,909	12,091	59,000	...

... Not applicable

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.*Table source:* Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Persistent offenders are also characterized in the literature by an early onset of offending. Table 11 compares the percentages of adolescent-limited and persistent offenders whose first incident was at each age level (adult onset offenders by definition commit their first referred incident after the age of 17, and are consequently not included in the comparison). There is no evidence to suggest that one group begins offending earlier than the other group, other than a slightly larger percentage of persistent offenders having their first incident at the age of 12. The patterns are similar for males and females.³⁶

Table 11

The age at the time of the first referred incident, by type of career

Age at first incident	Adolescent-limited	Persistent	Total
	Percentage		
12	5.3	6.9	5.9
13	10.6	10.7	10.6
14	17.5	17.2	17.4
15	21.8	20.6	21.4
16	23.6	22.6	23.2
17	21.3	22.0	21.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	21,564	12,032	33,596

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.*Table source:* Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Summary and conclusions

The court careers of persons born in 1979/80 and living in six provinces — Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta — accounting for approximately 78% of the population of Canada, were analyzed, using linked data from the Youth Court Survey and the Adult Criminal Court Survey for 1991/92 to 2002/03. A court career was defined as the sequence of incidents, occurring before the 22nd birthday, for which a person was charged and referred to youth court or provincial criminal court, and for which the charges were disposed of before March 31, 2003.

Eighteen per 100 members of the birth cohort — 28 per 100 males and 8 per 100 females — were referred to youth court or provincial criminal court in relation to offences allegedly committed between their 12th and 22nd birthdays. Of this group of alleged offenders, 79% were male, and 21% were female. Of the members of the cohort who were referred to court, 72% were found guilty of at least one offence, with the result that 13 per 100 members of the birth cohort were found guilty of an offence committed before their 22nd birthday — 21 per 100 males in the cohort and 5 per 100 females. These results are consistent with previous Canadian research on court careers, using data for British Columbia, and research conducted in other countries. Prevalence varied greatly across provinces. By their 22nd birthday, approximately one in ten members of the cohort had received a court sentence which put them under the supervision of correctional or probation authorities for some period of time.

The age-specific prevalence of referral to court varies from 0.7 per 100 12 year olds to a maximum of 4.6 per 100 18 year olds.³⁷ The peak is at 18 years for males and 16 years for females. Peak ages for referral to court are 16 years for property offences, 17 years for administrative offences, 18 years for offences against the person, and 19 years for other offences. The rate of referral to court *for the first time* (the “age of onset” of the court career) peaks at 2.5 per 100 at 16 years of age, then falls quite sharply with increasing age (except for a small jump at 18 which is probably due to lower rates of pre-court screening for adults). Consequently, the cumulative prevalence of referral to court, and of being found guilty, increases fairly rapidly to the age of 16, and less rapidly thereafter, but is still increasing substantially at the age of 21.

The mean number per offender of incidents resulting in charges heard in court is 3.3 for males, 2.4 for females, and 3.1 overall. These 3.1 incidents are made up, on average, of 2.4 substantive incidents per offender (i.e. incidents resulting in at least one substantive charge heard in court), and 0.7 administrative incidents (incidents resulting only in administrative charges).³⁸ Just over half of offenders had a court career consisting of only one criminal incident. Chronic offenders — those with 5 or more incidents — constitute 16% of offenders, but are responsible for 58% of all

incidents involving members of this cohort. Both the mean number of incidents in the career and the proportion of chronic offenders decrease rapidly with increasing age of onset.

The duration of the career can be measured only for careers which have a known date of termination. A completed career was defined heuristically as one consisting of at least two incidents, the last of which occurred at least 3 years before the end of the period of observation. One-quarter of completed careers lasted 3 months or less, and one-quarter lasted 32 months or more. The mean and median lengths of completed careers are 20 months and 13 months. The duration of the career decreases with increasing age of onset. Although it is difficult to be sure, due to the limited observation period, it appears that the peak age of desistance (age at the time of the final incident) is 19 years.

The mean age-specific rate of official offending is defined as the mean number of referred incidents per offender of a given age, calculated only for offenders who are referred to court for at least one incident (i.e. are “active”) at that age. Age-specific rates of offending are similar for male and female offenders, and peak at 2.0 incidents per active male offender at 15 years of age, and 1.7 per active female offender at 14 years. The mean annual rates of incidents whose most serious charge was an offence against the person and of incidents whose most serious charge was an “other” offence do not vary substantially with age, but the mean rate of incidents whose most serious charge was a property offence peaks at 16 years, and that of incidents whose most serious charge was administrative peaks at 14 years. Age-specific rates of offending are higher for offenders with earlier ages of onset.

Among repeat offenders (cohort members referred to court for 2 or more substantive incidents), 35% had *specialized* careers, consisting of charges on only one type of substantive offence (with or without administrative offences), and 65% had *versatile* careers, including 2 or more types of substantive offences (with or without administrative offences). In addition, 62% of repeat offenders had one or more administrative charges. Specialization and versatility appear to be determined largely by the number of incidents in the career.

Among cohort members referred to court for 3 or more substantive incidents, there is no marked tendency to escalation, de-escalation, or stability, in the seriousness of offending. All three patterns occur frequently, although de-escalation — a career whose last incident is less serious than the first — is a little more common.

Thirty-seven percent of offenders in the cohort have court careers limited to incidents which took place before the 18th birthday (“adolescent-limited” offenders). An additional 43% have careers limited to incidents which took place after the 18th birthday (“adult-onset”). The remaining 20% have “persistent” court careers, which include incidents occurring both before and after the 18th birthday. Males are more likely (22%) than females (13%) to be persistent offenders. Persistent offenders have many more incidents in their careers (8.1 on average, versus 1.9 and 1.7 for adolescent-limited and adult-onset offenders). They are also much more likely to have an incident involving an offence against the person in their career (62% of persistent offenders, versus 29% of adolescent-limited, and 27% of adult-onset, offenders). However, the average seriousness of *all* the incidents in the career differs very little among the three types of offenders, and there is no tendency for persistent offenders to have an earlier age of onset (contrary to suggestions in the literature; e.g., Moffitt, 1993).

This report has described, in broad outline, the court careers to the 22nd birthday of a birth cohort of Canadians in six provinces accounting for 78% of the national population. The results were derived from a linked YCS and ACCS file which contains very rich data. This file could support more detailed analyses of some of the topics which are necessarily only touched upon by this report; for example, the role of administrative offences in the development of the career, breakdowns of analyses by the types of offences and incidents, more complex classifications of the types of career, and changes over the career in the nature and seriousness of offending. The data could also be used to address issues which have not been covered by this report, such as the timing of incidents during the career, the processing of cases through the courts, the career of case outcomes such as adjudications and sentences (rather than of criminal incidents, which were analyzed in this report), and the interactions between sentencing and future offending, including the impact on careers of incapacitation. As additional years of court data become available, future research should follow court careers past the 22nd birthday and into adulthood. This will result in a more complete picture of the court careers of chronic, persistent offenders, as well as a more thorough investigation of the court careers of “adult-onset” offenders, who had no contact with the court system during adolescence.

Methodology

Population and period of observation

The population of the study consists of all persons born between April 1, 1979 and March 31, 1980³⁹, who had at least one charge which was related to a federal statute offence allegedly committed before their 22nd birthday, and was disposed of in youth court or adult provincial (criminal) court between April 1, 1991 and March 31, 2003, in one of the following jurisdictions: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The period of observation was from the 12th birthday to the day before the 22nd birthday; i.e. charges were selected for which the age of the accused on the date of the alleged offence was between 12 and 21 inclusive.

Prospective studies of criminal careers generally choose a birth cohort — that is, a population who were all born during a given period of time, often a period of one year — and track this cohort’s criminal behaviour over as long a period of time as possible. In the present study, the choice of birth cohort involved a trade-off between the completeness of coverage across Canada, and the number of years over which cohort members could be tracked.

Tracking court careers in Canada requires records from two surveys: the Youth Court Survey (YCS), which covers accused aged between 12 and 17 years at the time of the alleged offence, and the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS), which covers accused aged 18 years or older. The ACCS has covered, since fiscal 1994/95, provincial (criminal) courts, excluding superior courts, in the following provinces and territories: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and the Yukon. The YCS has covered all provinces and territories since 1991/92. Prior to 1991/92, Ontario did not report to the YCS. It was considered essential to include Ontario in the study, because of its size; thus, the earliest possible observation year was 1991/92. Since 12 years old at the time of the alleged offence is the minimum age of jurisdiction of the youth courts, the earliest available YCS data year — fiscal 1991/92 — implies using a cohort born in 1979/80, who would all have their 12th birthdays during fiscal 1991/92.

At the time when the research was conducted, fiscal 2002/03 was the latest year for which YCS and ACCS data were available. Thus, the selected observation period was from 1991/92 to 2002/03, and the selected population was: all persons born in 1979/80 who had charges heard in youth court or provincial criminal court in Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.⁴⁰ The selection of jurisdictions was determined primarily by the limitations of the coverage of the ACCS, but Nova Scotia was also omitted because records for Nova Scotia for 12 to 15 year olds could not be matched with

those for 16 to 17 year olds, and the Yukon was omitted because of record matching problems.⁴¹ The six provinces included account for approximately 78% of the population of Canada during this time period.

The period of April 1, 1991 to March 31, 2003 for which charge data were available corresponds to varying periods in the lives of members of the cohort, depending on which day of the year they were born. The oldest members, born on April 1, 1979, turned 12 on April 1, 1991, and were a day less than 24 years old on March 31, 2003. The youngest members, born on March 31, 1980, would have been a day past their 11th birthdays on April 1, 1991, and would have had their 23rd birthdays on March 31, 2003. They would not have been “at risk” of being charged until their 12th birthday, since 12 years was the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Canada during the observation period. Thus, members of the cohort would have had different lengths of time at risk if all were observed to March 31, 2003.

Instead, all individuals were tracked to the day before their 22nd birthday. The choice of the 22nd birthday as the cut-off date was based on an analysis of the length of time which it normally took for charges to be processed to disposition. Charges are reported to the YCS and ACCS when they are disposed of; that is, when their court process is completed. Therefore, YCS and ACCS data do not include all charges related to offences committed during the reporting year — only those charges which are disposed of during the reporting year. There are many reasons why charges related to an incident occurring in a given year may not have their first hearing in court until a subsequent year: for example, there may be a delay in the incident coming to the attention of police (as, for example, with some cases of child sexual abuse), the police investigation may be lengthy, or the charges laid or recommended by police may be screened by the Crown. In addition, court processing of many charges continues into succeeding years. Thus, charges related to offences allegedly committed at the ages of, say, 22 or 23, by some, but not all, members of the cohort born in 1979/80 would not have been disposed of by March 31, 2003, and would not appear in the data for 2001/02 or 2002/03. Therefore, it was decided to limit the incidents included in each person’s career to those allegedly occurring before the 22nd birthday, to minimize the underestimation of the level of offending in the last year or two of observation.

Table 12 shows the flow through the youth courts and criminal courts of disposed-of charges associated with incidents involving persons born during fiscal 1979/80. Panel (a) gives raw numbers of incidents, panel (b) shows row percentages, and panel (c) shows cumulative row percentages. Each row represents incidents which occurred during a given fiscal year. Each column shows the reporting year in which the charges related to the incident were disposed of, and reported to the YCS or ACCS. For example, the first row of panel (a) shows the number of incidents during 1991/92, when the 1979/80 birth cohort had their 12th birthdays. The first row of panel (b) shows that charges related to 16% of these incidents were disposed of during 1991/92, 64% during 1992/93, 16% during 1993/94, and the rest during 1994/95 and 1995/96. (In fact, as panel (a) shows, charges from a few incidents which occurred in 1991/92 continued to be reported as disposed of in every year until 2002/03, but the numbers were so small that they rounded to 0% in panel (b)). The first row of panel (c) shows that charges related to 80% of incidents which occurred in 1991/92 were disposed of within one reporting year (1992/93) in addition to 1991/92 itself, and that charges related to 96% of incidents were disposed of within two additional reporting years.

Of course, the validity of these percentages depends on the assumption that charges related to *all, or practically all*, incidents occurring in a given year were disposed of by 2002/03, in order to have a correct total number of incidents to be used as the denominator in calculating the percentage. The row totals in panel (a), and the patterns of cumulative percentages in panel (c), suggest that this assumption is reasonable for incidents occurring up to 2000/01, but after that, the percentages become less reliable, as the charges related to more and more incidents are presumably still outstanding after 2002/03.

Table 12
The flow of charges through Youth Court and Adult Criminal Court

Year of incident	Age	Reporting year												Total
		1991/ 92	1992/ 93	1993/ 94	1994/ 95	1995/ 96	1996/ 97	1997/ 98	1998/ 99	1999/ 00	2000/ 01	2001/ 02	2002/ 03	
(a) Number of incidents														
1991/92	12	668	2,605	658	68	39	11	20	2	3	1	1	1	4,077
1992/93	13	...	1,798	6,540	1,244	174	51	32	19	11	4	5	3	9,881
1993/94	14	...	...	4,011	11,382	2,397	244	82	22	26	14	4	3	18,185
1994/95	15	...	...	...	5,694	16,284	3,444	124	69	30	18	11	26,099	
1995/96	16	...	...	...	...	6,623	18,806	4,431	530	207	70	68	47	30,782
1996/97	17	...	...	...	...	...	6,594	19,268	4,548	618	231	140	82	31,481
1997/98	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,479	15,811	4,417	698	373	239	27,017
1998/99	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,955	13,118	4,084	942	392	23,491
1999/00	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,926	11,378	4,511	997	20,812
2000/01	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,467	12,474	4,397	20,338
2001/02	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,733	11,372	15,105
2002/03	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,527	3,527
Total		668	4,403	11,209	18,388	25,517	29,150	29,737	26,011	22,395	19,977	22,269	21,071	230,795
(b) Percentage														
1991/92	12	16	64	16	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
1992/93	13	...	18	66	13	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
1993/94	14	...	...	22	63	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
1994/95	15	...	...	...	22	62	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	100
1995/96	16	...	...	...	...	22	61	14	2	1	0	0	0	100
1996/97	17	...	...	...	...	...	21	61	14	2	1	0	0	100
1997/98	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	59	16	3	1	1	100
1998/99	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	56	17	4	2	100
1999/00	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	55	22	5	100
2000/01	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	61	22	100
2001/02	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	75	100
2002/03	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	100
(c) Cumulative percentage														
1991/92	12	16	80	96	98	99	99	100	...	...	...	...	...	...
1992/93	13	...	18	84	97	99	99	100	...	...	...	...	...	...
1993/94	14	...	...	22	85	98	99	100	...	...	...	...	...	...
1994/95	15	...	...	...	22	84	97	99	100	...	...	...	...	...
1995/96	16	...	...	...	...	22	83	97	99	99	100	...	...	...
1996/97	17	...	...	...	...	...	21	82	97	99	99	100	...	...
1997/98	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	79	95	98	99	100	...
1998/99	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	77	94	98	100	...
1999/00	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	74	95	100	...
2000/01	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	78	100	...
2001/02	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	100	...
2002/03	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	100

... Not applicable

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

On the basis of the distributions of incidents which occurred up to 2000/01, we can conclude that charges related to 74 to 85% of incidents will be included in the data if one reporting year in addition to the year of occurrence of the incident is used, and that 94 to 98% of incidents will be included if two additional years are used. Consequently, the career was defined as all incidents which occurred before the 22nd birthday. Since members of the cohort had their 22nd birthdays during 2001/02, then charges related to something like 15 to 26% of their incidents which occurred at the age of 21, and 2 to 6% of incidents which occurred at the age of 20, would not have been disposed of by the end of the observation period (March 31, 2003). This under-estimate of age-specific offending at the ages of 20 and 21 was considered to be an acceptable trade-off against the value of being able to follow criminal careers during these two years.⁴²

Unit of analysis: the court career

All charge records which fit these criteria were extracted from the data files of the Youth Court Survey and the Adult Criminal Court Survey for fiscal 1991/92 to 2002/03. Charges pertaining to the same person were linked to create a record of his or her court career up to the age of 21 inclusive. The analysis of court careers requires the construction of a data file with the person (or, equivalently, the career) as the unit of analysis (data record). YCS and ACCS data files use the charge as the basic data record. Thus, charge records from the YCS and ACCS which pertained to the same person were aggregated to form a person record which contained summary variables capturing the relevant attributes of the constituent charges.

However, in research on criminal careers, the unit of count is not the charge, but the (alleged) “crime”: that is, the act which constitutes a violation of the law, and which may result in more than one charge, or alleged offence. The “crime” is usually operationalized in criminal careers research by the criminal incident, also known as the occurrence, offence, or offence-episode. Perhaps this is because most criminal careers research uses data from police records or self-report surveys, which usually use the incident as the unit of analysis. Thus, in aggregating charge records to the person file, an intermediate level of aggregation — the incident — was used, in order to be able to construct person-based summary variables such as the number of incidents in the person’s court career, which would be of much more substantive interest than the number of charges. The incident was defined operationally as all charges (i.e. alleged offences) pertaining to the same person and having the same date of offence.⁴³

Matching of charge records for the same person was not straightforward, since there is no unique person identifier in the YCS or ACCS. Matching must be done using the province, person’s name, date of birth, and sex, and any other relevant fields. This raises the issue of potential *false positive* matches. Different people have the same name, date of birth and sex. Furthermore, the accused person’s name is not recorded as such in the YCS and ACCS – it is encoded in a 4-character Russell Soundex code (or Henri code in Quebec), which is not unique: many names are encoded with the same Soundex or Henri code.⁴⁴ Thus, matching on the Soundex or Henri code, date of birth and sex could result in false positive matches: records for different people would be erroneously treated as pertaining to a single person. The result would be an underestimate of the number of unique offenders and an overestimate of the numbers of incidents in their careers.

This is not an issue when aggregating charge records into incidents, because that matching process also uses the date of offence: for a false positive to occur, it would be necessary for two different people with the same Soundex code, date of birth, and sex, to be charged in connection with incidents occurring on the same day in the same province. The probability of this is negligible. However, false positives are a more serious issue in the matching of incidents to construct the person record, since that matching process relies on only the province, Soundex or Henri code, date of birth, and sex.

False negatives — where two records should be matched but are not — are also a potential problem in record matching. A false negative could occur if court records contained more than one name for the same person; for example, if a person changed his or her name during the observation period,⁴⁵ or used an alias, or if the name was misspelled. An incorrect record of the date of birth or sex would also result in a false negative. A false negative would also occur if the person committed crimes in more than one province, since all matching was done within provinces. Matching could have been done across the entire set of provinces which constituted the study population, in order to maintain the integrity of careers which crossed provincial boundaries, but this would have introduced two other problems:

- Since court data from Quebec use the Henri code, these records could not have been matched with records for other provinces;
- Matching within several provinces would have greatly increased the size of the “pool” of persons being matched, which would have exacerbated the problem of false positives (see below for the relationship between the size of the pool and the probability of false positives).

An analysis of the probability of false positive matches was conducted by determining the rate of occurrence of each Soundex or Henri code in the populations of the provinces in the study, using electronic telephone directories. This enabled the calculation, for each Soundex and Henri code, the expected rate of false positives, when it was used for matching in combination with birth date and sex. Soundex and Henri codes vary greatly in their vulnerability to false positive matches, since some encode very common names and others do not.

The probability of false positives is directly related to the number of records being matched, which is approximately proportional to the population of the geographical area, and the number of years, within which matching is being done. There would be many false positives if records for many years for all of Canada were being matched, and few or none if records were matched for only a few years within one town. Thus, in a study such as the present one, where the number of years of matching is fixed (1991/92 to 2002/03), the “match quality” or “match efficiency” (i.e. non-vulnerability to false positives) of Soundex and Henri codes is related both to the commonness of the names which they encode, and to the population of the area within which matching is being done.

On the basis of this quality analysis, four categories of the “quality” of Soundex and Henri codes were defined:

- 0 – The code is rare enough that there is 99% or better match efficiency rate.
- 1 – 95% – 99% match efficiency rate.
- 2 – 90% – 95% match efficiency rate.
- 3 – less than 90% match efficiency rate.

“Match efficiency” refers to the absence of false positives; e.g. 99% match efficiency means that 1% of matches are expected to be false positives, and “99% or better” means that 1% or fewer false positives are expected.

Records (and therefore persons) whose Soundex or Henri codes had worse than a 95% match efficiency (i.e. quality codes of 2 or 3) were eliminated from the study. The rationale for simply eliminating these records is that, as a record selection criterion, Soundex and Henri codes (representing persons’ names) are presumed to be unbiased with respect to criminal behaviour. A person with a common name such as John Smith, whose Soundex would probably have a quality code of 3, is no more or less likely to have a criminal career, or a career with particular characteristics, than a person with an uncommon name. Thus, the records with Soundex and Henri quality codes of 0 and 1 constitute a subset which is presumed to be representative of the entire population with respect to the phenomenon under study (criminal behaviour).

Record selection, matching and weighting

If a sample is small relative to the population, then even very small selection biases can result in significant unrepresentativeness. Also, even perfectly random samples with small numbers suffer from serious random sampling error and unstable parameter estimates based on small cell sizes. Table 13 shows the proportions of incident records with Soundex quality codes of 0 or 1 in the YCS and ACCS for 1991/92 to 2002/03, for the 1979/80 birth cohort.

Table 13

Soundex quality codes of incident records, for the 1979/80 birth cohort, by province, with Ontario and Alberta not regionalized

	Quality code = 0,1		Total number
	Percentage	Number	
Male			
Newfoundland and Labrador	96.5	3,903	4,043
Prince Edward Island	100.0	911	911
Quebec ¹	100.0	31,929	31,929
Ontario	32.6	25,667	78,687
Saskatchewan	73.5	12,552	17,076
Alberta	54.7	18,980	34,678
Total male	56.1	93,942	167,324
Female			
Newfoundland and Labrador	98.1	667	680
Prince Edward Island	100.0	188	188
Quebec ¹	100.0	2,212	2,212
Ontario	34.0	5,404	15,891
Saskatchewan	72.0	2,959	4,108
Alberta	59.9	4,646	7,750
Total female	52.1	16,076	30,829
Total			
Newfoundland and Labrador	96.8	4,570	4,723
Prince Edward Island	100.0	1,099	1,099
Quebec ¹	100.0	34,141	34,141
Ontario	32.9	31,071	94,578
Saskatchewan	73.2	15,511	21,184
Alberta	55.7	23,626	42,428
Grand total	55.5	110,018	198,153

1. Quebec data use the Henri code.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

These proportions are all acceptable, except for Ontario and Alberta, where approximately two-thirds and one-half of the records have unacceptable Soundex quality codes. This problem was resolved by “regionalizing” Ontario and Alberta. Just as Canada had already been “regionalized” by matching records within provinces rather than across the whole country, so Ontario and Alberta were subdivided into regions, with record matching done within each region. The effect of this regionalization (like the effect of matching within provinces instead of Canada as a whole) is to reduce the number of records within which matching is being done, and therefore the likelihood of false positives, while increasing the probability of false negatives by making it impossible to match across regional boundaries within a province. The choice of the number of regions within each province is thus based on the trade-off between reducing regional populations sufficiently to produce a high proportion of records with Soundex quality codes of 0 or 1, while not making the regions so small that people are likely to commit crimes in more than one region during the 10-year observation period. Ontario was divided into four regions, and Alberta into two. Regional boundaries were selected in order to make the number of records for each region as close as possible to equal (and therefore all minimal), while at the same time defining regions which were socio-economically as integral as possible, in order to minimize the probability that people would commit crimes across regional boundaries. Ontario was divided into: the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), southern Ontario west of the Toronto CMA, southern Ontario east of the Toronto CMA, and northern Ontario. Alberta was divided into northern and southern regions, based on the Edmonton and Calgary CMAs respectively. The results of the regionalization are shown in Table 14. The proportions of incident records to be retained for Ontario and Alberta are now acceptable.

The records with Soundex quality codes of 0 or 1 were then aggregated into person (career) records. To compensate for the deletion of records with Soundexes of 2 and 3, each person record was assigned a weight, which was the inverse of the selection fractions shown in Table 14. For example, 73.5% of incident records for males in Saskatchewan had Soundex codes of 0 or 1. Therefore, the person records for males in Saskatchewan were weighted by the inverse of 0.735, which is 1.36. Individuals whose first referred incident occurred after their 22nd birthday were eliminated from the population. The weighted numbers of offenders in each province are shown in Table 15. These are the offender populations on which the analyses are based.

Table 14

Soundex quality codes of incident records, for the 1979/80 birth cohort, by province, with regionalization for Ontario and Alberta

	Quality code = 0,1		Total number
	Percentage	Number	
Male			
Newfoundland and Labrador	96.5	3,903	4,043
Prince Edward Island	100.0	911	911
Quebec ¹	100.0	31,929	31,929
Ontario	72.3	56,887	78,687
Saskatchewan	73.5	12,552	17,076
Alberta	73.1	25,358	34,678
Total male	78.6	131,540	167,324
Female			
Newfoundland and Labrador	98.1	667	680
Prince Edward Island	100.0	188	188
Quebec ¹	100.0	2,212	2,212
Ontario	74.8	11,889	15,891
Saskatchewan	72.0	2,959	4,108
Alberta	76.1	5,897	7,750
Total female	77.2	23,812	30,829
Total			
Newfoundland and Labrador	96.8	4,570	4,723
Prince Edward Island	100.0	1,099	1,099
Quebec ¹	100.0	34,141	34,141
Ontario	72.7	68,776	94,578
Saskatchewan	73.2	15,511	21,184
Alberta	73.7	31,255	42,428
Grand total	78.4	155,352	198,153

1. Quebec data use the Henri code.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table 15

Distribution of offenders in the 1979/80 birth cohort, based on weighted records with Soundex quality codes 0 and 1

	Male		Female		Total	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.5	1,170	2.1	251	2.4	1,421
Prince Edward Island	0.5	245	0.6	75	0.5	320
Quebec ¹	21.2	9,926	9.9	1,203	18.9	11,129
Ontario	52.9	24,834	59.5	7,198	54.3	32,032
Saskatchewan	7.2	3,397	9.6	1,163	7.7	4,560
Alberta	15.6	7,337	18.2	2,201	16.2	9,538
Total	100	46,909	100	12,091	100	59,000

1. Quebec data use the Henri code.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Population at risk

The prevalence of, or participation in, offending or alleged offending is usually expressed in the criminal careers literature as the proportion of the cohort who (allegedly) committed an offence at a given age (*age-specific prevalence*), or ever (allegedly) committed an offence up to a given age (*age-specific cumulative prevalence*), or ever (allegedly) committed an offence during the period of observation (*overall or lifetime prevalence*). Calculation of such prevalence estimates requires both the number of persons who (allegedly) exhibited the behaviour, and the number of persons at risk of exhibiting it — the *eligible population at risk*.

Using the YCS and ACCS data, one cannot track exactly the same group of individuals for ten years — from their 12th birthday up to their 22nd birthday. Each year, some individuals will either immigrate to or emigrate from Canada or the parts of Canada included in the study, and/or will move between the provinces and territories under study. Consequently, determining the exact *total eligible population at risk* of a contact with the court system is not possible. However, population data provided by Statistics Canada for each age and sex in Canadian provinces and territories may be used to approximate the male and female population born between April 1st, 1979 and March 1st, 1980 for each year while under the jurisdiction of the Canadian justice system.

The total eligible population comprises all individuals born between April 1st, 1979 and March 31st, 1980 who: (1) lived in a province included in the study continuously from their 12th to their 22nd birthday; (2) lived in an included province on their 12th birthday but moved out of it before their 22nd birthday, and (3) moved into an included province after their 12th birthday and before their 22nd birthday, or (4) made multiple moves between provinces after their 12th birthday and before their 22nd birthday.

As a result of net migration, the total population of the birth cohort in the part of Canada included in the study experienced a small but steady net growth between 1991 and 2000 — the period during which the individuals within the cohort moved from 12 years of age to 21 years of age. The cohort increased from 294,376 twelve year olds in 1991 to 323,694 twenty-one year olds in 2000. This represents an average annual increase of 1% or an overall increase of 10% in the size of the cohort.

Age-specific prevalence rates are calculated using yearly population data to determine the approximate population of males and females in each specific year for that corresponding age group. As such, changes in the population are not considered problematic because any gains or losses — through migration or death — are taken into account. However, when calculations of overall prevalence are concerned, the changing denominator (size of the total eligible population at risk) becomes problematic.

For purposes of estimating overall prevalence, the study utilizes the largest approximate population — the number of 21 year olds in 2000 — in its calculations. This approach accounts not only for the stable component of the original cohort size, but also the net growth experienced over time. Lee (1999) used a similar approach and rationale in determining the total eligible population in presenting overall prevalence estimates in a study of youth crime trends in British Columbia for four separate cohorts. An alternative, and less desirable, method uses the number of live births in the cohort birth year as an approximation of cohort size throughout

the time period under study (see Prime et al., 2001 for an example of this use). This method would result in overall prevalence estimates approximately 3% higher than those produced by the method adopted in the present study.

Criminal charges heard in municipal courts in Quebec

During the period covered by this study, approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges involving adults in Quebec were heard in municipal courts, not provincial courts (Thomas, 2004: 11). Data for these charges were not captured by the Adult Criminal Court Survey, and consequently are not included in the present research. This section attempts to estimate how much the prevalence estimates for Quebec would change if charges heard in municipal courts were included.

The reported prevalence estimates are based on counts of the number of persons who had at least one charge referred to youth court or provincial criminal court, related to an incident occurring between the 12th and 22nd birthdays. Thus, persons who had a charge in youth court or provincial court would already be included in the prevalence estimates, regardless of whether they had any charges heard in municipal court. Therefore, addition of municipal court data would increase prevalence estimates only in relation to persons who had no youth court charges, and no provincial court charges, in their court careers.

Although the number of such persons is not known, it is possible to estimate the approximate maximum and minimum numbers, if certain assumptions are made. Assuming that 25% of adult offenders in Quebec had all of their charges heard in municipal court, then the inclusion of municipal court data would result in an increase of 33.3% (25/75) in the estimated number of adult offenders. However, it would not result in an increase of 33.3% in the prevalence estimate, because any adult offender who had charges heard in youth court would already be included in the prevalence counts. Table 6 shows that, among the cohort as a whole, 43% had referred incidents as adults but not as young persons. Assuming that this is also true in Quebec, the maximum increase in estimated prevalence in Quebec due to the addition of municipal court data would be $(0.43) \times (0.33) = 0.14$, or 14% of the estimate based on youth court and provincial court data.

Table A2 gives prevalence estimates for referral to court and conviction in Quebec of 10.9 and 9.2 per 100 cohort members. Therefore, the maximum estimated prevalence of referral and conviction, adjusted to include municipal court data, would be 12.4 per 100 (10.9×1.14) and 10.5 per 100 (9.2×1.14) respectively. The minimum adjustment due to adding municipal court data would be zero, if all persons who had charges in municipal court were already included in the prevalence estimates because they also had charges in youth court or provincial court.

Therefore, the addition of data on criminal charges heard in municipal courts in Quebec would result in prevalence estimates between approximately 10.9 and 12.4 for referral to court, and between 9.2 and 10.5 for conviction.

Addition of municipal court data would also probably increase the estimated mean number of incidents in court careers in Quebec by a small amount, although we cannot be sure of this. The number of incidents in the court career would increase in the case of persons who had charges heard in municipal court, and who were already included in the study because they had charges heard in youth court or provincial court. However, an unknown number of additional persons would be

added to the study population, who had all their charges heard in municipal court (thus increasing prevalence; see above), and who would probably have fewer incidents in their careers than the existing population (because they would necessarily not have any youth court charges), thus decreasing the mean number of incidents in the expanded population. Similarly, addition of data from the Quebec municipal courts would probably result in small changes in the estimates of other parameters of the court career, such as the annual rate of alleged offending, the duration of the career, etc.

Classification of offences and incidents

Classification of incidents

For most analyses involving breakdowns by the type of incident, incidents are classified into four groups — against the person, against property, against the administration of justice, and other — according to the nature of the most serious charge, or alleged offence, resulting from the incident, using the offence classification table below.

The most serious charge in the incident is determined by the seriousness scale, which was developed by Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics to rank the seriousness of criminal offences. It is based on the average length of prison sentence imposed on convicted charges between 1994/95 and 2000/01 in criminal court (Robinson, 2004: 10).

A “substantive” incident is defined as an incident which resulted in at least one substantive charge. A substantive charge is defined as a charge involving an alleged offence against the person, against property, or an “other” offence; i.e. not an offence against the administration of justice. Therefore, an alternative definition of a substantive incident is: an incident which resulted in at least one charge other than administrative charges. An “administrative” incident is defined as an incident which resulted solely in administrative charge(s).

Table 16

Classification of offences

<p>Offences against the person</p> <p>Indictable offences against the person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st degree murder 2nd degree murder Manslaughter Infanticide Motor vehicle offences causing death Attempt murder Conspiracy to murder, negligence causing death, etc. Sexual assault level 3 (aggravated) Sexual assault level 2 (with a weapon or causing bodily harm) Assault level 3 (aggravated assault) Assault level 2 (with weapon or causing bodily harm) Unlawfully causing bodily harm Robbery Indictable sex offences against children Kidnapping, abduction, hostage-taking, forcible confinement Extortion Discharge firearm with intent to wound, etc. Criminal negligence causing bodily harm Miscellaneous indictable person <p>Hybrid offences against the person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual assault level 1 Assault level 1 Assault peace officer, resist arrest Criminal harassment Other (threats, libel, abduction, etc.) <hr/> <p>Offences against property</p> <p>Indictable offences against property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Break and enter, possess housebreaking tools Theft of property worth more than... or of motor vehicle¹ Take motor vehicle without permission Arson Counterfeiting <p>Summary and hybrid offences against property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theft of property worth less than ...¹ Possession of stolen property Fraud, credit card offences, forgery, false pretences Mischief causing damage to property 	<p>Offences against the administration of justice (administrative offences)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fail to appear for court; bail offences Breach probation, fail to comply with disposition under the YOA Escape custody/prison, unlawfully at large Obstruct peace officer Other (obstruct justice, bribe official, etc.) <hr/> <p>Other offences</p> <p>Indictable other offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic/import/produce/possess drug or controlled substance with intent Explosives offences Prohibited weapons offences (possess, import, etc.) Restricted weapons offences (possess, import, etc.) Other weapons offences (careless use/storage of firearm, firearms sale offences, concealed weapon) <p>Summary/hybrid other offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possess cocaine, cannabis, other drugs and controlled substances Impaired driving, driving over .08, refuse to give breath sample, etc. Other Criminal Code traffic (hit and run, dangerous operation, etc.) Betting/gaming house: keeper, found in Bookmaking, unauthorized lottery, etc. Indecent/harassing telephone calls Cause disturbance Vagrancy, public nuisance, trespass at night Communicate for the purposes of prostitution Bawdy house: owner, inmate, found in Other morals (public nudity etc.) Other Criminal Code (money laundering, attempts, accessories, etc.) Other federal statutes (Canada Shipping Act, Immigration Act, etc.)
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1. "Theft over" and "theft under" refer to theft of goods valued at more than or less than a threshold value which is periodically revised; up to 1995, it was \$1,000; after 1995, it was \$5,000.

Data source: Statistics Canada, *Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey*.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006*.

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Table A1

Meta-analysis of international findings on the cumulative prevalence of official criminal behaviour

Study	Population	Data source	Prevalence rates	Measure of prevalence
Canada <i>Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort</i> (present study)	Retrospective study of referrals and convictions of individuals born in Canada between April 1 st 1979 and March 31 st , 1980 and adjudicated in one of six Canadian provinces (Number = 59,000)	Official court records using linked data from the <i>Youth Court Survey</i> and <i>Adult Criminal Court Survey</i>	(Referred) Males = 28/100 Females = 8/100 (Convicted) Males = 21/100 Females = 5/100	Referred to youth court or criminal court in relation to offences allegedly committed from age 12 up to their 22 nd birthday. Convicted of at least one charge in youth court or criminal court from age 12 up to their 22 nd birthday.
Canada <i>Youth Crime trends in British Columbia</i> (Lee, 1999, 2000a, 2000b)	Retrospective study of convictions of individuals born in Canada from 1972 to 1975 and adjudicated in British Columbia (Number = 13,507)	Official court records from the <i>British Columbia Young Offenders</i> registry collected by the <i>Youth Court Survey</i>	(Referred) Males = 16% Females = 4% (Convicted) Males = 12% Females = 3%	Referred to youth court in relation to offences allegedly committed from age 12 up to their 18 th birthday. Convicted of at least one charge in youth court from age 12 up to their 18 th birthday.
England and Wales <i>Criminal Careers of those born between 1953 and 1978</i> (Prime et al., 2001)	Retrospective study of convictions of individuals born in England and Wales in six specified weeks between 1953 and 1978 (Number = 143,480) for the 1953 cohort ¹	Official data from the Offenders Index which contains the criminal histories of those convicted of a standard list offence in England and Wales	(1953 Cohort) Males = 22% Females = 4%	Convicted of at least one 'standard list' offence from 10 years of age up to their 22 nd birthday. Standard list offence include all indictable and certain, more serious, summary offences.
New Zealand <i>Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study</i> (Moffitt et al., 2001)	Prospective study of all individuals between April 1 st , 1972 and March 31 st , 1973 in Dunedin, New Zealand (N = 1,037)	Official court records of convictions from both <i>Children's and Young Persons' Court</i> from age 13 to age 16 and convictions in adult <i>Criminal Court</i> from age 17 to age 22.	Males = 20% Females = 8%	Convicted of at least one crime (violent or non-violent) from age 13 up to their 22 nd birthday.
England <i>Cambridge Study</i> (Farrington and Wikström, 1994)	Prospective follow-up of inner-city males born in London between Sept. 1952 and Aug. 1954 (Number = 411)	Official court records of convictions	Males = 33%	Registered for an offence from age 10 up to their 25 th birthday. Offences are defined as acts leading to conviction.
Sweden <i>Orebro Project</i> (Stattin et al., 1989)	A prospective longitudinal study of individuals born in 1955, lived in Orebro in 1965, and entered the 3 rd grade of the public elementary school at age 10. The study also included children of the same age cohort who moved into the region from 1965 to 1971. (Number = 364)	Official court records containing information on all offences committed, court decisions and sanctions	Males = 38% Females = 9%	Convicted of at least one officially registered offence between 10 and 30 years of age. Criminal acts were coded and registered as an offence when there was a societal sanction. This included conviction and sanctioning in criminal court for those over the age of criminal responsibility (age 15) and a finding of guilt by police and some intervention by child welfare authorities for those below the age of criminal responsibility.
United States <i>National Collaborative Perinatal Project</i> (Piquero and Buka, 2002)	A prospective analysis of all individuals born between March 1960 and August, 1966. This population is a sample drawn from the cohort of individuals involved in the Providence sample of the <i>National Collaborative Perinatal Project</i> . (Number = 3,828)	Official juvenile court contacts	Males = 19% Females = 5%	Referred to juvenile court for at least one "true" delinquent offence (i.e., non-status, non-dependency) before 18 years of age.
United States <i>Court Careers of Juvenile Offenders</i> (Snyder, 1988)	A retrospective analysis of court careers of youth born between 1962 and 1965 who were processed in Maricopa County (Phoenix), Arizona (Number = 35,174) and in the State of Utah (Number = 34,330)	Official court data extracted from the <i>National Juvenile Court Data Archive</i> (NJCDA). This data includes records of referrals which are handled informally at intake along with those handled formally via court proceedings	(Maricopa) Males = 47% Females = 22% (Utah) Males = 45% Females = 20%	Referred to juvenile court at least once for a delinquency or status offence (i.e., criminal law violation) from age 7 up to their 18 th birthday.

Table A1 – concluded

Meta-analysis of international findings on the cumulative prevalence of official criminal behaviour

Study	Population	Data source	Prevalence rates	Measure of prevalence
Denmark <i>Danish Longitudinal Study</i> (Kyvsgaard, 2003)	Retrospective analysis of a criminal registration sample of individuals with a valid Danish Central Person Registration Number born in 1964 and 1965 (Number = 44,698)	Official records of police registration	(Up to age 26) Males = 45% Females = 9% (Up to age 21) Male = 37% Female = 6%	Registered for any offence from age 15 up to their 27 th birthday Offences include penal, traffic, or special codes some of which are often excluded from criminal prevalence statistics (i.e., traffic violations)
Japan <i>1970 Birth Cohort in Japan</i> (Harata, 1994)	Retrospective study of official arrest records for individuals who were born in October, 1969 through to October, 1970 (N = 10,026)	Official records of juvenile arrests at a prefectural police headquarters near Tokyo.	Males = 14% Females = 5%	Arrested by police at least once between the ages of 8 and 19 years.
Sweden <i>Project Metropolitan-Sweden</i> (Wikström, 1990)	A retrospective birth cohort analysis of all those born in the Stockholm Metropolitan area in 1953 and still residing in that area in 1963 (N = 15,117)	Official police registration records	Males = 31% Females = 6%	Registered for a crime between the ages of 13 and 25. Registered crime includes all crimes reported and cleared by police which have been connected to a suspect. Crimes against property and person, both serious and non-serious are included in the study. Minor traffic offences (i.e., speeding) are excluded from the findings.
United States <i>Delinquency Careers in Two Birth Cohorts</i> (Tracy et al., 1990)	A prospective study of two separate birth cohorts: 1945 Cohort: 9,945 boys born in Philadelphia in 1945 and residing in Philadelphia up to 18 years of age. 1958 Cohort: 27,160 boys and girls born in Philadelphia in 1958 and residing in Philadelphia up to 18 years of age	Official police contacts recorded by the Juvenile Aid Division of the Philadelphia Police Department.	(1945 Cohort) Males = 35% (1958 Cohort) Males = 33% Females = 14%	Having at least one police contact from 7 to 18 years of age Police contact data include offences for which the individual was either arrested or dealt with through informal measures.

- Figures are presented for the 1953 cohort because of more comprehensive sampling and population information relating to this group. Cumulative prevalence figures up to age 20 for all cohorts studied range from 17% to 24% for males and 3% to 5% for females. Figures are lowest for the 1973 and 1978 cohorts because offenders in the 1970s are more likely to have been given cautions or warnings than offenders in the earlier years.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, *Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort*, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A2

Rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court and conviction in relation to incidents occurring before the 22nd birthday

	Referred to court								
	Male			Female			Total		
	Estimated number	Population	Estimated rate per 100 population	Estimated number	Population	Estimated rate per 100 population	Estimated number	Population	Estimated rate per 100 population
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,170	3,858	30.3	251	3,683	6.8	1,421	7,541	18.8
Prince Edward Island	245	960	25.5	75	977	7.7	320	1,937	16.5
Quebec	9,926	52,441	18.9	1,203	49,962	2.4	11,129	102,403	10.9
Ontario	24,834	78,233	31.7	7,198	74,441	9.7	32,032	152,674	21.0
Saskatchewan	3,397	7,539	45.1	1,163	7,055	16.5	4,560	14,594	31.2
Alberta	7,337	22,869	32.1	2,201	21,310	10.3	9,538	44,179	21.6
Total	46,909	165,900	28.3	12,091	157,428	7.7	59,000	323,328	18.2

	Convicted (guilty on at least one charge)								
	Male			Female			Total		
	Estimated number	Population	Estimated rate per 100 population	Estimated number	Population	Estimated rate per 100 population	Estimated number	Population	Estimated rate per 100 population
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,035	3,858	26.8	218	3,683	5.9	1,253	7,541	16.6
Prince Edward Island	209	960	21.8	65	977	6.7	274	1,937	14.2
Quebec	8,501	52,441	16.2	902	49,962	1.8	9,403	102,403	9.2
Ontario	16,778	78,233	21.4	3,848	74,441	5.2	20,626	152,674	13.5
Saskatchewan	2,679	7,539	35.5	768	7,055	10.9	3,447	14,594	23.6
Alberta	5,706	22,869	25.0	1,525	21,310	7.2	7,231	44,179	16.4
Total	34,908	165,900	21.0	7,326	157,428	4.7	42,234	323,328	13.1

Note: Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data would likely result in a small increase in estimated prevalence in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A3

The most severe sentence received during the court career

	Males			Females			All offenders		
	Estimated number	Percentage of offenders	Estimated rate per 100 population	Estimated number	Percentage of offenders	Estimated rate per 100 population	Estimated number	Percentage of offenders	Estimated rate per 100 population
Secure custody or prison	9,352	26.9	5.6	1,006	13.8	0.6	10,358	24.6	3.2
Open custody	1,606	4.6	1.0	450	6.2	0.3	2,056	4.9	0.6
Conditional sentence of imprisonment	497	1.4	0.3	122	1.7	0.1	619	1.5	0.2
Probation	15,203	43.7	9.2	4,047	55.4	2.6	19,250	45.7	6.0
Fine	5,846	16.8	3.5	874	12.0	0.6	6,720	15.9	2.1
Community service	790	2.3	0.5	317	4.3	0.2	1,107	2.6	0.3
Other ¹	350	1.0	0.2	119	1.6	0.1	477	1.1	0.1
Conditional discharge	18	0.1	0.0	2	0.0	0.0	20	0.0	0.0
Absolute discharge	1,163	3.3	0.7	370	5.1	0.2	1,533	3.6	0.5
Total	34,825	100.0	21.0	7,307	100.0	4.6	42,132	100.0	13.0

1. Includes restitution, compensation, pay purchaser, prohibition, seizure, forfeiture, and other sentences.

Note: The most severe sentence is unknown for 102 convicted persons.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A4

Rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court and conviction, by age at the time of the offence, sex, and province

	Referred to court									
	Age at the time of the offence									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.60	2.64	3.62	5.28	5.51	6.17	5.76	5.26	4.85	4.91
Prince Edward Island	0.29	1.65	2.60	3.05	5.40	5.77	5.10	6.40	6.27	6.35
Quebec	0.22	0.65	1.83	2.85	3.99	4.52	5.31	4.98	4.32	3.92
Ontario	1.36	2.49	4.35	6.23	7.38	7.49	8.03	7.44	6.87	6.08
Saskatchewan	2.20	3.63	5.85	7.85	10.43	12.28	12.49	12.67	11.97	10.38
Alberta	1.46	2.82	5.01	6.76	8.88	9.18	10.47	9.17	8.65	7.54
Total male	1.04	1.99	3.66	5.23	6.56	6.95	7.62	7.08	6.49	5.77
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.29	0.85	0.91	1.01	1.07	0.86	1.15	0.96	0.95	0.86
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.50	1.10	1.19	1.78	1.27	1.47	1.89	1.01	1.02
Quebec	0.02	0.10	0.23	0.29	0.37	0.43	0.46	0.42	0.45	0.36
Ontario	0.33	1.00	1.74	2.13	2.11	1.75	1.70	1.40	1.15	1.09
Saskatchewan	0.87	2.02	2.74	3.40	3.33	3.25	3.22	3.33	2.73	2.54
Alberta	0.54	1.43	2.16	2.93	2.89	2.42	2.34	2.05	1.68	1.51
Total female	0.28	0.80	1.32	1.65	1.67	1.45	1.44	1.25	1.06	0.97
Total										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.97	1.78	2.32	3.23	3.38	3.63	3.55	3.19	2.96	2.93
Prince Edward Island	0.15	1.08	1.86	2.14	3.63	3.55	3.30	4.16	3.64	3.67
Quebec	0.12	0.38	1.05	1.60	2.23	2.53	2.95	2.76	2.43	2.19
Ontario	0.86	1.77	3.08	4.25	4.83	4.71	4.96	4.51	4.09	3.65
Saskatchewan	1.56	2.86	4.36	5.71	7.02	7.93	8.03	8.18	7.51	6.59
Alberta	1.01	2.14	3.63	4.91	5.99	5.92	6.55	5.74	5.29	4.63
Grand total	0.67	1.41	2.52	3.50	4.19	4.29	4.62	4.25	3.85	3.43
	Convicted (guilty on at least one charge)									
	Age at the time of the offence									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.17	2.29	3.15	4.59	4.68	5.60	5.30	4.60	4.30	4.07
Prince Edward Island	0.19	1.26	1.92	2.95	5.02	4.91	4.33	5.81	5.36	5.10
Quebec	0.16	0.54	1.59	2.48	3.45	3.84	4.69	4.26	3.63	3.25
Ontario	0.81	1.65	2.97	4.25	4.89	5.21	5.37	4.98	4.62	3.96
Saskatchewan	1.30	2.36	4.45	5.77	8.21	9.91	9.66	10.13	9.26	8.05
Alberta	1.08	2.22	4.00	5.52	6.89	6.93	8.11	6.62	6.54	5.69
Total male	0.66	1.42	2.73	3.92	4.85	5.24	5.72	5.22	4.78	4.17
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.24	0.81	0.79	0.95	0.91	0.82	1.01	0.82	0.75	0.65
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.30	1.00	1.19	1.68	1.17	0.98	1.59	1.01	0.82
Quebec	0.01	0.07	0.18	0.24	0.30	0.31	0.35	0.31	0.32	0.25
Ontario	0.13	0.55	1.01	1.25	1.17	0.98	0.89	0.74	0.55	0.52
Saskatchewan	0.53	0.91	1.78	2.15	2.28	2.41	2.20	2.22	1.72	1.69
Alberta	0.41	1.07	1.57	2.13	2.10	1.73	1.53	1.27	1.10	0.92
Total female	0.15	0.48	0.84	1.07	1.06	0.93	0.87	0.75	0.62	0.55

Table A4 – concluded

Rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court and conviction, by age at the time of the offence, sex, and province

	Convicted (guilty on at least one charge)									
	Age at the time of the offence									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Total										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.72	1.57	2.01	2.84	2.88	3.31	3.24	2.78	2.58	2.40
Prince Edward Island	0.10	0.79	1.47	2.09	3.39	3.07	2.67	3.71	3.19	2.94
Quebec	0.09	0.31	0.90	1.39	1.92	2.12	2.58	2.33	2.02	1.79
Ontario	0.47	1.11	2.02	2.80	3.09	3.16	3.20	2.92	2.64	2.28
Saskatchewan	0.93	1.67	3.16	4.03	5.36	6.30	6.07	6.33	5.62	4.97
Alberta	0.75	1.66	2.83	3.88	4.58	4.42	4.93	4.04	3.92	3.39
Grand total	0.41	0.96	1.81	2.53	3.01	3.15	3.37	3.05	2.76	2.40

Note: Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data would likely result in a small increase in estimated prevalence in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A5

Population estimates by age, sex, and province for the 1979/80 birth cohort

	Age									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,866	4,901	4,922	4,905	4,871	4,787	4,622	4,372	4,141	3,858
Prince Edward Island	1,033	1,033	1,039	1,050	1,055	1,058	1,039	1,015	989	960
Quebec	49,735	50,061	50,429	50,779	51,046	51,191	51,348	51,715	52,016	52,441
Ontario	67,820	69,011	70,074	71,305	72,512	73,667	74,854	75,897	76,920	78,233
Saskatchewan	8,167	8,176	8,202	8,233	8,272	8,318	8,179	8,022	7,833	7,539
Alberta	19,178	19,429	19,633	19,792	19,990	20,239	20,707	21,465	22,130	22,869
Total male	150,799	152,611	154,299	156,064	157,746	159,260	160,749	162,486	164,029	165,900
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,533	4,560	4,571	4,541	4,484	4,395	4,254	4,041	3,875	3,683
Prince Edward Island	1,007	1,000	1,003	1,005	1,009	1,027	1,023	1,005	989	977
Quebec	47,371	47,624	47,902	48,159	48,409	48,605	48,834	49,142	49,479	49,962
Ontario	64,484	65,295	66,072	66,995	68,131	69,278	70,265	71,402	72,716	74,441
Saskatchewan	7,506	7,550	7,599	7,635	7,660	7,725	7,588	7,429	7,281	7,055
Alberta	18,252	18,354	18,419	18,523	18,666	18,918	19,339	20,009	20,592	21,310
Total female	143,153	144,383	145,566	146,858	148,359	149,948	151,303	153,028	154,932	157,428
Total										
Newfoundland and Labrador	9,399	9,461	9,493	9,446	9,355	9,182	8,876	8,413	8,016	7,541
Prince Edward Island	2,040	2,033	2,042	2,055	2,064	2,085	2,062	2,020	1,978	1,937
Quebec	97,106	97,685	98,331	98,938	99,455	99,796	100,182	100,857	101,495	102,403
Ontario	132,304	134,306	136,146	138,300	140,643	142,945	145,119	147,299	149,636	152,674
Saskatchewan	15,673	15,726	15,801	15,868	15,932	16,043	15,767	15,451	15,114	14,594
Alberta	37,430	37,783	38,052	38,315	38,656	39,157	40,046	41,474	42,722	44,179
Grand total	293,952	296,994	299,865	302,922	306,105	309,208	312,052	315,514	318,961	323,328

Note: The estimates are adjusted for net census undercount.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Annual Demographic Statistics, 2003.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A6

Rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court and conviction, by type of incident, age at the time of the incident, sex, and province

	Age at the time of the incident									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Against the person										
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.47	0.57	0.89	1.43	1.25	1.59	1.25	1.28	1.13	1.45
Prince Edward Island	0.10	0.10	0.67	0.48	0.76	0.76	0.87	1.08	1.31	1.25
Quebec	0.11	0.26	0.62	0.84	1.00	1.19	1.22	1.19	1.14	1.07
Ontario	0.41	0.83	1.34	1.90	2.02	2.06	2.25	2.05	1.88	1.80
Saskatchewan	0.37	0.66	1.06	1.55	2.18	2.54	2.73	2.48	2.73	2.96
Alberta	0.28	0.78	1.37	1.74	2.21	2.19	2.34	1.96	1.87	1.71
Total	0.29	0.61	1.07	1.49	1.69	1.80	1.92	1.76	1.66	1.60
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.07	0.15	0.26	0.44	0.42	0.25	0.31	0.25	0.26	0.30
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.10	0.30	0.40	0.30	0.29	0.20	0.40	0.40	0.31
Quebec	0.00	0.04	0.10	0.14	0.12	0.13	0.10	0.11	0.14	0.11
Ontario	0.07	0.36	0.58	0.68	0.59	0.51	0.44	0.37	0.31	0.31
Saskatchewan	0.20	0.38	0.64	0.69	0.70	0.88	0.91	0.63	0.59	0.75
Alberta	0.11	0.41	0.69	0.75	0.70	0.61	0.41	0.51	0.33	0.37
Total	0.06	0.25	0.43	0.50	0.45	0.41	0.35	0.31	0.27	0.27
Total	0.28	0.37	0.59	0.95	0.86	0.95	0.80	0.78	0.71	0.89
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.05	0.10	0.49	0.44	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.74	0.86	0.77
Prince Edward Island	0.06	0.15	0.37	0.50	0.57	0.67	0.68	0.66	0.65	0.60
Quebec	0.25	0.60	0.97	1.31	1.33	1.31	1.38	1.23	1.12	1.07
Ontario	0.29	0.53	0.86	1.14	1.47	1.74	1.85	1.59	1.70	1.89
Saskatchewan	0.20	0.60	1.04	1.26	1.48	1.43	1.41	1.26	1.13	1.06
Alberta										
Grand total against the person	0.18	0.44	0.76	1.01	1.09	1.13	1.16	1.06	0.98	0.95
Property										
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.21	1.90	2.66	3.43	3.67	3.70	3.25	2.04	1.81	1.48
Prince Edward Island	0.29	1.55	1.92	2.00	4.27	3.59	3.18	2.66	1.92	2.19
Quebec	0.10	0.35	0.99	1.55	2.10	2.19	1.91	1.42	1.17	0.89
Ontario	0.94	1.61	2.75	3.62	4.24	3.81	3.66	2.65	2.14	1.63
Saskatchewan	1.85	2.87	4.60	5.41	6.42	7.18	5.83	4.85	3.79	2.81
Alberta	1.21	2.03	3.60	4.63	5.85	5.02	5.00	3.89	3.15	2.37
Total	0.75	1.33	2.37	3.15	3.85	3.61	3.37	2.51	2.04	1.55
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.18	0.68	0.59	0.55	0.49	0.57	0.85	0.52	0.49	0.33
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.40	0.90	0.60	1.09	0.68	0.68	1.29	0.61	0.51
Quebec	0.01	0.04	0.09	0.10	0.16	0.20	0.12	0.11	0.13	0.10
Ontario	0.27	0.64	1.07	1.20	1.26	0.88	0.83	0.62	0.44	0.40
Saskatchewan	0.71	1.62	1.79	2.31	2.09	1.42	1.37	1.20	0.92	0.72
Alberta	0.43	0.95	1.37	1.87	1.55	1.05	1.10	0.85	0.69	0.53
Total	0.22	0.53	0.81	0.96	0.96	0.70	0.66	0.52	0.40	0.34
Total	0.71	1.31	1.66	2.04	2.15	2.20	2.10	1.31	1.17	0.91
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.15	0.98	1.42	1.31	2.71	2.16	1.94	1.98	1.26	1.34
Prince Edward Island	0.06	0.20	0.55	0.84	1.16	1.22	1.04	0.78	0.66	0.51
Quebec	0.61	1.14	1.93	2.45	2.80	2.39	2.29	1.66	1.31	1.03
Ontario	1.30	2.27	3.25	3.91	4.34	4.41	3.68	3.09	2.41	1.80
Saskatchewan	0.83	1.51	2.52	3.30	3.77	3.10	3.11	2.43	1.96	1.48
Alberta										
Grand total property	0.49	0.94	1.61	2.09	2.45	2.20	2.06	1.54	1.24	0.96

Table A6 – concluded

Rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court and conviction, by type of incident, age at the time of the incident, sex, and province

	Age at the time of the incident									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Administration of justice										
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.12	0.49	0.67	1.12	1.44	1.78	1.43	1.40	1.42	0.83
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.67	1.33	1.80	1.44	0.79	1.52	1.15
Quebec	0.01	0.03	0.22	0.45	0.77	1.04	0.71	0.90	0.94	0.81
Ontario	0.11	0.37	0.79	1.53	1.78	2.05	2.17	1.99	1.77	1.59
Saskatchewan	0.28	0.87	1.55	2.88	3.59	4.58	5.42	5.52	5.21	4.76
Alberta	0.15	0.72	1.44	2.31	3.30	3.58	4.36	3.64	3.03	2.92
Total	0.09	0.33	0.72	1.33	1.73	2.04	2.12	2.01	1.83	1.65
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.11	0.13	0.24	0.35	0.29	0.20	0.16	0.35	0.18	0.22
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.30	0.50	0.29	0.49	0.30	0.10	0.00
Quebec	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.04
Ontario	0.02	0.16	0.38	0.56	0.49	0.45	0.33	0.25	0.24	0.22
Saskatchewan	0.29	0.52	0.91	1.07	1.31	1.39	1.28	1.44	1.03	0.81
Alberta	0.12	0.43	0.79	1.07	1.26	1.15	0.90	0.72	0.69	0.58
Total	0.04	0.16	0.34	0.47	0.48	0.46	0.36	0.31	0.27	0.24
Total										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.12	0.32	0.46	0.75	0.89	1.02	0.82	0.89	0.82	0.53
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.49	0.92	1.06	0.97	0.54	0.81	0.57
Quebec	0.00	0.02	0.12	0.25	0.43	0.57	0.39	0.49	0.51	0.44
Ontario	0.07	0.26	0.59	1.06	1.15	1.27	1.28	1.15	1.03	0.92
Saskatchewan	0.29	0.70	1.24	2.01	2.49	3.04	3.42	3.56	3.20	2.85
Alberta	0.13	0.58	1.12	1.71	2.32	2.41	2.69	2.23	1.90	1.79
Grand total administration of justice	0.07	0.25	0.54	0.92	1.12	1.27	1.27	1.19	1.08	0.96
Other										
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.06	0.14	0.20	0.51	0.55	1.07	1.45	1.78	1.98	2.00
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.19	0.29	0.57	0.47	1.51	1.44	2.96	3.34	2.92
Quebec	0.01	0.10	0.43	0.77	1.23	1.45	2.95	2.50	2.04	1.87
Ontario	0.07	0.22	0.60	1.10	1.50	1.74	2.35	2.71	2.83	2.51
Saskatchewan	0.18	0.22	0.68	1.20	2.25	3.22	4.17	5.12	4.58	4.35
Alberta	0.03	0.25	0.47	0.88	1.58	2.21	3.58	3.57	3.69	3.32
Total	0.05	0.18	0.52	0.95	1.42	1.76	2.76	2.86	2.76	2.50
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.12	0.12	0.10	0.11
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.20	0.10	0.49	0.20	0.20	0.20
Quebec	0.00	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.09	0.23	0.18	0.19	0.13
Ontario	0.01	0.03	0.09	0.14	0.18	0.22	0.35	0.34	0.31	0.29
Saskatchewan	0.01	0.09	0.11	0.24	0.55	0.78	0.75	1.16	0.89	0.95
Alberta	0.03	0.07	0.18	0.24	0.40	0.51	0.60	0.50	0.48	0.45
Total	0.01	0.03	0.09	0.13	0.19	0.24	0.36	0.34	0.31	0.28
Total										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.03	0.10	0.13	0.31	0.32	0.60	0.81	0.99	1.07	1.07
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.10	0.15	0.34	0.34	0.82	0.97	1.58	1.77	1.55
Quebec	0.01	0.06	0.25	0.42	0.67	0.79	1.62	1.37	1.14	1.03
Ontario	0.04	0.13	0.35	0.63	0.86	1.00	1.38	1.56	1.60	1.43
Saskatchewan	0.10	0.16	0.41	0.74	1.43	2.04	2.52	3.22	2.81	2.71
Alberta	0.03	0.16	0.33	0.57	1.01	1.39	2.14	2.09	2.14	1.93
Grand total other	0.03	0.11	0.31	0.55	0.83	1.02	1.60	1.64	1.57	1.42

Note: Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data would likely result in a small increase in estimated prevalence in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A7

Rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court and conviction, by type of incident, age at the time of the incident, sex, and province

	Age									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Against the person										
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.27	0.47	0.77	1.10	0.90	1.36	1.10	1.08	0.99	1.06
Prince Edward Island	0.10	0.10	0.48	0.48	0.66	0.66	0.87	0.99	1.01	1.04
Quebec	0.08	0.20	0.52	0.68	0.77	0.93	0.91	0.86	0.78	0.70
Ontario	0.27	0.63	0.95	1.32	1.34	1.39	1.45	1.32	1.15	1.13
Saskatchewan	0.22	0.51	0.83	1.14	1.69	1.95	1.75	1.60	1.86	2.19
Alberta	0.19	0.56	0.95	1.17	1.58	1.50	1.51	1.23	1.17	1.15
Total	0.19	0.46	0.80	1.07	1.19	1.28	1.29	1.17	1.07	1.04
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.07	0.13	0.20	0.37	0.38	0.23	0.19	0.15	0.18	0.16
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.10	0.30	0.40	0.20	0.29	0.20	0.40	0.40	0.31
Quebec	0.00	0.03	0.07	0.12	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.04
Ontario	0.05	0.27	0.41	0.47	0.36	0.28	0.24	0.20	0.15	0.15
Saskatchewan	0.15	0.20	0.43	0.38	0.52	0.50	0.61	0.38	0.26	0.44
Alberta	0.09	0.29	0.50	0.50	0.46	0.33	0.28	0.22	0.16	0.18
Total	0.04	0.18	0.31	0.35	0.29	0.24	0.21	0.17	0.14	0.13
Total	0.17	0.31	0.50	0.75	0.65	0.82	0.66	0.63	0.60	0.62
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.17	0.31	0.50	0.75	0.65	0.82	0.66	0.63	0.60	0.62
Prince Edward Island	0.05	0.10	0.39	0.44	0.44	0.48	0.53	0.69	0.71	0.67
Quebec	0.04	0.11	0.30	0.41	0.44	0.53	0.50	0.48	0.44	0.38
Ontario	0.17	0.45	0.69	0.91	0.87	0.85	0.87	0.78	0.66	0.65
Saskatchewan	0.19	0.36	0.64	0.78	1.13	1.25	1.20	1.01	1.09	1.34
Alberta	0.14	0.43	0.73	0.85	1.04	0.94	0.91	0.75	0.68	0.68
Grand total against the person	0.12	0.33	0.56	0.72	0.75	0.78	0.76	0.69	0.61	0.60
Property										
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.92	1.69	2.34	3.14	3.20	3.28	3.07	1.90	1.69	1.30
Prince Edward Island	0.10	1.26	1.44	1.90	4.08	2.84	2.79	2.27	1.42	1.67
Quebec	0.08	0.31	0.86	1.36	1.88	1.92	1.78	1.27	1.05	0.81
Ontario	0.53	0.98	1.75	2.35	2.73	2.60	2.42	1.83	1.44	1.09
Saskatchewan	1.11	1.79	3.30	3.80	4.92	5.17	4.28	3.38	2.54	2.06
Alberta	0.92	1.63	2.99	3.74	4.51	3.80	3.80	2.80	2.35	1.78
Total	0.47	0.91	1.72	2.30	2.82	2.69	2.51	1.86	1.50	1.15
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.13	0.66	0.50	0.51	0.38	0.52	0.71	0.49	0.44	0.27
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.20	0.80	0.60	0.99	0.68	0.49	1.00	0.61	0.41
Quebec	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.08	0.12	0.14	0.11	0.09	0.10	0.08
Ontario	0.08	0.27	0.51	0.59	0.66	0.47	0.43	0.32	0.22	0.19
Saskatchewan	0.37	0.68	1.07	1.27	1.31	1.11	0.70	0.66	0.49	0.45
Alberta	0.30	0.71	0.96	1.31	1.09	0.80	0.60	0.53	0.40	0.30
Total	0.10	0.28	0.45	0.54	0.56	0.44	0.37	0.30	0.22	0.19
Total	0.54	1.19	1.45	1.87	1.85	1.96	1.94	1.22	1.09	0.80
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.54	1.19	1.45	1.87	1.85	1.96	1.94	1.22	1.09	0.80
Prince Edward Island	0.05	0.74	1.13	1.27	2.57	1.77	1.65	1.63	1.01	1.03
Quebec	0.05	0.17	0.47	0.73	1.02	1.05	0.96	0.70	0.59	0.46
Ontario	0.31	0.63	1.15	1.49	1.72	1.57	1.46	1.10	0.85	0.65
Saskatchewan	0.76	1.25	2.23	2.58	3.18	3.22	2.56	2.07	1.55	1.28
Alberta	0.61	1.18	2.01	2.57	2.86	2.35	2.25	1.71	1.41	1.07
Grand total property	0.29	0.60	1.10	1.45	1.72	1.60	1.47	1.11	0.88	0.68

Table A7 – concluded

Rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court and conviction, by type of incident, age at the time of the incident, sex, and province

	Age									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Administration of justice										
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.12	0.39	0.61	0.98	1.23	1.57	1.15	1.24	1.23	0.73
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.67	1.23	1.70	0.77	0.79	1.31	0.94
Quebec	0.00	0.03	0.18	0.39	0.64	0.90	0.58	0.78	0.82	0.70
Ontario	0.07	0.26	0.56	1.11	1.18	1.38	1.33	1.31	1.17	1.04
Saskatchewan	0.17	0.64	1.37	2.31	2.82	3.55	3.84	4.29	3.47	3.25
Alberta	0.10	0.49	1.15	1.81	2.56	2.63	3.16	2.41	2.02	2.13
Total	0.06	0.24	0.55	1.02	1.27	1.51	1.45	1.43	1.28	1.17
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.11	0.13	0.20	0.33	0.29	0.20	0.16	0.30	0.13	0.16
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.30	0.50	0.19	0.39	0.30	0.10	0.00
Quebec	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.03
Ontario	0.01	0.11	0.29	0.37	0.33	0.29	0.18	0.15	0.14	0.12
Saskatchewan	0.19	0.38	0.64	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.82	0.90	0.63	0.57
Alberta	0.09	0.29	0.59	0.82	0.88	0.82	0.57	0.42	0.43	0.36
Total	0.03	0.11	0.25	0.34	0.34	0.31	0.22	0.20	0.17	0.14
Total										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.12	0.26	0.41	0.67	0.78	0.91	0.68	0.78	0.70	0.45
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.49	0.87	0.96	0.58	0.54	0.71	0.46
Quebec	0.00	0.02	0.10	0.21	0.35	0.49	0.32	0.43	0.44	0.37
Ontario	0.04	0.19	0.43	0.75	0.77	0.85	0.78	0.75	0.67	0.59
Saskatchewan	0.18	0.52	1.02	1.65	1.91	2.28	2.38	2.66	2.10	1.95
Alberta	0.09	0.40	0.88	1.33	1.75	1.75	1.91	1.45	1.25	1.27
Grand total administration of justice	0.05	0.18	0.41	0.69	0.82	0.93	0.85	0.83	0.74	0.67
Other										
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.06	0.14	0.18	0.43	0.49	1.00	1.30	1.49	1.69	1.66
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.10	0.19	0.57	0.38	1.42	1.25	2.86	2.93	2.29
Quebec	0.01	0.08	0.38	0.67	1.06	1.22	2.64	2.19	1.80	1.66
Ontario	0.04	0.14	0.42	0.70	0.95	1.11	1.48	1.67	1.83	1.54
Saskatchewan	0.12	0.18	0.54	0.89	1.81	2.87	3.37	4.44	3.87	3.46
Alberta	0.00	0.17	0.32	0.62	0.97	1.43	2.84	2.61	2.96	2.51
Total	0.03	0.13	0.39	0.68	1.02	1.28	2.12	2.10	2.07	1.81
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.09	0.12	0.08	0.11
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.10
Quebec	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.17	0.13	0.14	0.11
Ontario	0.00	0.02	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.16	0.16	0.13	0.12
Saskatchewan	0.01	0.05	0.08	0.20	0.46	0.65	0.62	0.87	0.65	0.71
Alberta	0.03	0.06	0.16	0.17	0.29	0.35	0.43	0.33	0.34	0.33
Total	0.00	0.03	0.07	0.08	0.13	0.15	0.22	0.21	0.18	0.17
Total										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.03	0.10	0.12	0.26	0.29	0.57	0.72	0.83	0.91	0.90
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.05	0.10	0.34	0.24	0.77	0.73	1.53	1.57	1.19
Quebec	0.00	0.05	0.22	0.37	0.58	0.66	1.43	1.19	0.99	0.90
Ontario	0.02	0.08	0.24	0.40	0.54	0.62	0.84	0.93	1.00	0.85
Saskatchewan	0.07	0.12	0.32	0.55	1.16	1.80	2.05	2.72	2.32	2.13
Alberta	0.01	0.12	0.24	0.40	0.64	0.91	1.68	1.51	1.70	1.46
Grand total other	0.02	0.08	0.23	0.39	0.59	0.73	1.20	1.18	1.16	1.01

Note: Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data would likely result in a small increase in estimated prevalence in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A8

Cumulative rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court and conviction, by age at the time of the incident, sex, and province

	Referred to court									
	Age at the time of the incident									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.60	3.71	6.52	9.99	12.81	15.98	19.43	22.85	26.30	30.33
Prince Edward Island	0.29	1.94	3.75	5.52	8.91	12.19	15.40	19.31	22.04	25.52
Quebec	0.22	0.82	2.34	4.40	7.00	9.51	12.68	15.32	17.34	18.93
Ontario	1.36	3.41	6.75	10.92	15.25	19.15	23.26	26.58	29.54	31.74
Saskatchewan	2.20	5.12	9.03	13.37	18.80	24.87	30.70	35.96	40.62	45.06
Alberta	1.45	3.70	7.17	10.99	15.60	19.67	24.00	27.05	30.06	32.08
Total male	1.04	2.68	5.45	8.86	12.67	16.25	20.16	23.34	26.11	28.24
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.29	1.03	1.66	2.38	3.03	3.57	4.44	5.20	5.94	6.82
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.50	1.50	2.29	3.47	3.99	4.79	6.27	6.88	7.68
Quebec	0.02	0.11	0.32	0.56	0.87	1.19	1.55	1.87	2.16	2.41
Ontario	0.33	1.27	2.72	4.30	5.71	6.82	7.87	8.65	9.21	9.67
Saskatchewan	0.87	2.46	4.43	6.73	8.50	9.95	11.82	13.51	14.93	16.48
Alberta	0.54	1.72	3.12	4.94	6.46	7.45	8.56	9.36	9.93	10.33
Total female	0.28	0.99	2.03	3.20	4.26	5.11	5.99	6.69	7.22	7.67
Total										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.97	2.42	4.18	6.33	8.12	10.04	12.25	14.37	16.45	18.84
Prince Edward Island	0.15	1.23	2.64	3.94	6.25	8.15	10.14	12.82	14.46	16.52
Quebec	0.12	0.47	1.35	2.53	4.01	5.46	7.25	8.76	9.94	10.87
Ontario	0.86	2.37	4.79	7.71	10.63	13.17	15.80	17.89	19.66	20.98
Saskatchewan	1.56	3.85	6.82	10.18	13.85	17.69	21.61	25.17	28.25	31.25
Alberta	1.01	2.73	5.21	8.06	11.18	13.76	16.55	18.52	20.35	21.59
Grand total	0.67	1.86	3.79	6.12	8.60	10.85	13.29	15.26	16.93	18.23
	Convicted (guilty on at least one charge)									
	Age at the time of the incident									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.17	3.02	5.44	8.46	10.94	13.85	17.11	20.20	23.21	26.83
Prince Edward Island	0.19	1.45	2.79	4.57	7.68	10.30	12.99	16.55	19.01	21.77
Quebec	0.16	0.65	1.97	3.76	5.99	8.09	10.94	13.16	14.87	16.21
Ontario	0.81	2.18	4.44	7.26	10.13	12.88	15.62	17.89	19.96	21.45
Saskatchewan	1.30	3.14	6.21	9.34	13.66	18.74	23.44	27.99	31.84	35.54
Alberta	1.08	2.89	5.62	8.76	12.26	15.28	18.80	20.98	23.41	24.95
Total male	0.66	1.84	3.89	6.43	9.24	11.95	14.93	17.32	19.43	21.02
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.24	0.96	1.49	2.14	2.61	3.16	3.95	4.63	5.19	5.92
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.30	1.20	1.99	3.07	3.60	4.20	5.47	6.07	6.65
Quebec	0.01	0.08	0.24	0.44	0.68	0.91	1.19	1.43	1.64	1.81
Ontario	0.13	0.63	1.46	2.36	3.12	3.72	4.27	4.67	4.95	5.17
Saskatchewan	0.53	1.15	2.43	3.82	5.17	6.36	7.72	8.82	9.74	10.89
Alberta	0.41	1.27	2.25	3.56	4.63	5.37	6.10	6.56	6.96	7.16
Total female	0.15	0.57	1.21	1.95	2.60	3.13	3.67	4.08	4.39	4.65

Table A8 – concluded

Cumulative rate per 100 cohort members of referral to court and conviction, by age at the time of the incident, sex, and province

	Convicted (guilty on at least one charge)									
	Age at the time of the incident									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Total										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.72	2.03	3.54	5.42	6.95	8.73	10.80	12.72	14.50	16.62
Prince Edward Island	0.10	0.89	2.01	3.31	5.43	7.00	8.63	11.04	12.54	14.15
Quebec	0.09	0.37	1.13	2.14	3.40	4.59	6.18	7.44	8.42	9.18
Ontario	0.47	1.43	3.00	4.89	6.73	8.44	10.12	11.48	12.67	13.51
Saskatchewan	0.93	2.19	4.39	6.69	9.58	12.78	15.87	18.77	21.19	23.62
Alberta	0.75	2.10	3.99	6.25	8.58	10.49	12.66	14.02	15.48	16.37
Grand total	0.41	1.22	2.59	4.26	6.02	7.67	9.47	10.90	12.13	13.05

Note: Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data would likely result in a small increase in estimated prevalence in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A9

Rate per 100 cohort members of first referral to court ("age of onset") and of first conviction, by age at the time of the incident, sex, and province

	Referred to court for the first time at that age									
	Age at the time of the incident									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.60	2.11	2.81	3.47	2.82	3.17	3.45	3.42	3.45	4.03
Prince Edward Island	0.29	1.65	1.82	1.77	3.39	3.28	3.21	3.91	2.73	3.48
Quebec	0.22	0.60	1.52	2.06	2.60	2.51	3.16	2.64	2.02	1.59
Ontario	1.36	2.05	3.33	4.17	4.34	3.90	4.11	3.32	2.96	2.20
Saskatchewan	2.20	2.92	3.91	4.34	5.43	6.08	5.83	5.26	4.66	4.44
Alberta	1.45	2.24	3.47	3.82	4.61	4.07	4.34	3.05	3.01	2.02
Total male	1.04	1.64	2.76	3.41	3.82	3.58	3.91	3.18	2.77	2.13
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.29	0.74	0.63	0.72	0.65	0.54	0.87	0.75	0.74	0.88
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.50	1.00	0.79	1.18	0.52	0.80	1.48	0.61	0.80
Quebec	0.02	0.10	0.20	0.24	0.31	0.32	0.36	0.32	0.29	0.25
Ontario	0.33	0.94	1.45	1.58	1.40	1.11	1.05	0.78	0.56	0.46
Saskatchewan	0.87	1.60	1.97	2.30	1.77	1.46	1.87	1.69	1.41	1.56
Alberta	0.54	1.17	1.40	1.82	1.52	0.99	1.12	0.79	0.57	0.40
Total female	0.28	0.71	1.03	1.18	1.06	0.85	0.88	0.69	0.53	0.45
Total										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.97	1.45	1.76	2.15	1.79	1.92	2.21	2.12	2.08	2.39
Prince Edward Island	0.15	1.08	1.41	1.30	2.31	1.90	1.98	2.69	1.64	2.06
Quebec	0.12	0.35	0.88	1.18	1.48	1.45	1.79	1.51	1.17	0.93
Ontario	0.86	1.51	2.42	2.92	2.92	2.54	2.63	2.08	1.78	1.32
Saskatchewan	1.56	2.28	2.98	3.36	3.67	3.84	3.92	3.56	3.08	3.00
Alberta	1.01	1.72	2.47	2.86	3.12	2.58	2.78	1.97	1.84	1.23
Grand total	0.67	1.19	1.92	2.33	2.48	2.25	2.44	1.97	1.67	1.29

Table A9 – concluded

Rate per 100 cohort members of first referral to court (“age of onset”) and of first conviction, by age at the time of the incident, sex, and province

	Convicted (guilty on at least one charge) for the first time at that age									
	Age at the time of the incident									
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.17	1.85	2.43	3.02	2.48	2.91	3.26	3.08	3.01	3.62
Prince Edward Island	0.19	1.26	1.34	1.78	3.11	2.62	2.69	3.56	2.46	2.76
Quebec	0.16	0.49	1.31	1.79	2.23	2.11	2.84	2.23	1.71	1.34
Ontario	0.81	1.37	2.26	2.82	2.86	2.76	2.73	2.27	2.07	1.48
Saskatchewan	1.30	1.85	3.06	3.13	4.32	5.08	4.70	4.55	3.85	3.70
Alberta	1.08	1.80	2.74	3.14	3.50	3.02	3.52	2.19	2.43	1.54
Total male	0.66	1.18	2.05	2.54	2.81	2.71	2.99	2.39	2.11	1.58
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.24	0.72	0.52	0.65	0.47	0.55	0.79	0.68	0.56	0.73
Prince Edward Island	0.00	0.30	0.90	0.79	1.08	0.53	0.60	1.27	0.59	0.59
Quebec	0.01	0.07	0.16	0.20	0.23	0.23	0.28	0.24	0.21	0.17
Ontario	0.13	0.51	0.83	0.90	0.76	0.60	0.55	0.40	0.28	0.22
Saskatchewan	0.53	0.62	1.28	1.39	1.35	1.19	1.37	1.09	0.92	1.15
Alberta	0.41	0.87	0.97	1.32	1.07	0.74	0.73	0.46	0.41	0.19
Total female	0.15	0.42	0.64	0.74	0.65	0.53	0.54	0.41	0.32	0.26
Total										
Newfoundland and Labrador	0.72	1.31	1.51	1.88	1.53	1.79	2.07	1.91	1.78	2.12
Prince Edward Island	0.10	0.79	1.12	1.30	2.12	1.58	1.63	2.41	1.50	1.61
Quebec	0.09	0.29	0.75	1.01	1.26	1.19	1.59	1.26	0.98	0.76
Ontario	0.47	0.95	1.57	1.89	1.84	1.71	1.68	1.36	1.19	0.84
Saskatchewan	0.93	1.26	2.20	2.29	2.89	3.20	3.10	2.89	2.42	2.43
Alberta	0.75	1.35	1.89	2.26	2.33	1.91	2.17	1.36	1.46	0.88
Grand total	0.41	0.81	1.37	1.67	1.76	1.65	1.80	1.43	1.23	0.92

Note: Information from Quebec’s municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data would likely result in a small increase in estimated prevalence in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A10

Mean number of incidents, and of substantive incidents, of accused persons in the birth cohort, up to their 22nd birthday

	Incidents								
	Mean number of incidents			Mean number of substantive incidents ¹			Number of accused		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	3.26	2.57	3.14	2.71	2.01	2.58	1,170	251	1,421
Prince Edward Island	3.37	2.40	3.14	2.87	1.87	2.64	245	75	320
Quebec	2.98	1.71	2.85	2.56	1.48	2.44	9,926	1,203	11,129
Ontario	2.91	2.07	2.72	2.30	1.60	2.14	24,834	7,198	32,031
Saskatchewan	4.62	3.27	4.27	3.25	2.18	2.98	3,397	1,163	4,560
Alberta	4.30	3.27	4.07	2.97	2.04	2.76	7,337	2,201	9,539
Total	3.28	2.38	3.09	2.54	1.73	2.38	46,909	12,091	59,000

1. Substantive incidents exclude incidents involving administrative offences only.

Note: Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data might result in a small increase in estimated incidence in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A11

The number of incidents in the court career, by sex and type of career

	Males		Females		All offenders	
	Number of offenders	Percentage of offenders	Number of offenders	Percentage of offenders	Number of offenders	Percentage of offenders
Offenders						
All types of incidents						
Chronic offenders (5 or more incidents)	8,357	17.8	1,329	11.0	9,686	16.4
Repeat offenders (2 to 4 incidents)	13,596	29.0	3,181	26.3	16,777	28.4
One-time offenders	24,956	53.2	7,581	62.7	32,537	55.1
Total	46,909	100.0	12,091	100.0	59,000	100.0
Substantive incidents only¹						
Chronic offenders (5 or more incidents)	6,219	13.7	708	6.1	6,927	12.1
Repeat offenders (2 to 4 incidents)	13,123	28.8	2,884	24.7	16,007	28.0
One-time offenders	26,147	57.5	8,070	69.2	34,217	59.9
No substantive incidents in the career	1,419	...	429	...	1,848	...
Total	46,908	100.0	12,091	100.0	58,999	100.0
Incidents						
All types of incidents						
Chronic offenders (5 or more incidents)	93,226	60.7	12,944	45.0	106,170	58.2
Repeat offenders (2 to 4 incidents)	35,416	23.1	8,226	28.6	43,642	23.9
One-time offenders	24,956	16.2	7,581	26.4	32,537	17.8
Total	153,598	100.0	28,751	100.0	182,349	100.0
Substantive incidents only¹						
Chronic offenders (5 or more incidents)	58,949	49.4	5,534	26.5	64,483	46.0
Repeat offenders (2 to 4 incidents)	34,131	28.6	7,269	34.8	41,400	29.6
One-time offenders	26,147	21.9	8,070	38.7	34,217	24.4
No substantive incidents in the career	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	119,227	100.0	20,873	100.0	140,100	100.0

... Not applicable

1. Excludes incidents involving administrative offences only.

Note: The numbers of offenders do not add to 59,000, due to rounding error.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A12

Percentages of offenders with completed careers, by age at the time of the last incident, sex, and province

	Age at the time of the last referred incident ("age of termination")								Total	Total number
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
	Percentage									
Male										
Newfoundland and Labrador	3.5	6.2	8.5	12.0	15.6	17.7	19.0	17.5	100.0	801
Prince Edward Island	1.6	2.3	9.3	7.8	14.0	18.6	20.2	26.4	100.0	129
Quebec	0.7	1.7	5.5	8.9	14.5	18.9	24.7	25.1	100.0	5,919
Ontario	2.3	3.9	7.2	11.6	14.8	17.3	21.0	21.8	100.0	15,360
Saskatchewan	2.3	3.0	7.2	10.0	14.0	20.0	19.3	24.1	100.0	1,919
Alberta	1.7	3.2	6.0	9.0	14.2	16.4	23.8	25.7	100.0	4,056
All males	1.9	3.4	6.8	10.6	14.6	17.7	22.0	23.1	100.0	...
Number	528	948	1,903	2,980	4,115	4,996	6,206	6,508	...	28,184
Female										
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.8	12.2	11.7	13.9	13.9	11.7	20.0	13.9	100.0	180
Prince Edward Island	0.0	5.4	8.9	12.5	14.3	14.3	17.9	26.8	100.0	56
Quebec	0.6	3.6	8.9	11.6	16.4	18.5	20.9	19.7	100.0	813
Ontario	2.1	6.5	12.3	15.5	17.6	15.5	16.2	14.4	100.0	5,584
Saskatchewan	1.4	9.0	10.6	16.3	14.2	15.9	14.8	17.9	100.0	804
Alberta	2.1	5.3	9.3	15.5	17.1	16.0	17.9	16.8	100.0	1,592
All females	1.9	6.4	11.3	15.1	17.0	15.8	16.9	15.7	100.0	...
Number	174	575	1,017	1,367	1,535	1,424	1,522	1,415	...	9,029
All offenders										
Newfoundland and Labrador	3.4	7.3	9.1	12.3	15.3	16.6	19.2	16.8	100.0	981
Prince Edward Island	1.1	3.2	9.2	9.2	14.1	17.3	19.5	26.5	100.0	185
Quebec	0.7	1.9	5.9	9.3	14.7	18.8	24.3	24.5	100.0	6,732
Ontario	2.2	4.6	8.6	12.6	15.6	16.8	19.7	19.8	100.0	20,944
Saskatchewan	2.0	4.8	8.2	11.9	14.0	18.8	18.0	22.3	100.0	2,723
Alberta	1.8	3.8	7.0	10.9	15.0	16.3	22.1	23.2	100.0	5,648
All offenders	1.9	4.1	7.8	11.7	15.2	17.3	20.8	21.3	100.0	...
Number	702	1,523	2,920	4,347	5,650	6,420	7,728	7,923	...	37,213

... Not applicable

Note: Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data might result in a small change in estimated percentages of completed careers in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A13

Mean rates of offending by active offenders at each year of age (λ), by sex and province

		Age at the time of the incident									
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Male											
Newfoundland and Labrador	Mean	2.0	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.5
	Number	78	129	178	259	268	295	266	230	201	190
Prince Edward Island	Mean	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.8	2.2	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.5
	Number	3	17	27	32	57	61	53	65	62	61
Quebec	Mean	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4
	Number	109	327	925	1,445	2,039	2,316	2,729	2,574	2,248	2,056
Ontario	Mean	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6
	Number	922	1,718	3,052	4,444	5,353	5,518	6,009	5,645	5,287	4,757
Saskatchewan	Mean	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	1.9	2.0
	Number	180	297	480	646	862	1,022	1,022	1,016	937	782
Alberta	Mean	1.8	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0
	Number	279	549	983	1,338	1,775	1,859	2,169	1,969	1,913	1,725
Total male	Mean	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.6
	Number	1,571	3,037	5,645	8,164	10,355	11,070	12,248	11,499	10,648	9,571
Female											
Newfoundland and Labrador	Mean	1.8	1.4	1.6	2.1	1.5	1.9	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.3
	Number	13	39	42	46	48	38	49	39	37	32
Prince Edward Island	Mean	0.0	1.4	2.1	1.8	1.2	2.4	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.0
	Number	0	5	11	12	18	13	15	19	10	10
Quebec	Mean	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
	Number	8	48	109	141	181	207	227	205	222	182
Ontario	Mean	1.2	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.3
	Number	215	654	1,148	1,427	1,438	1,212	1,192	998	833	809
Saskatchewan	Mean	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.8
	Number	65	153	208	260	255	251	244	247	199	179
Alberta	Mean	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.9	1.7
	Number	99	262	397	543	540	459	452	410	346	321
Total female	Mean	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.4
	Number	400	1,160	1,915	2,428	2,480	2,180	2,180	1,918	1,646	1,532
Total											
Newfoundland and Labrador	Mean	2.0	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.5
	Number	91	168	220	305	316	333	315	269	238	221
Prince Edward Island	Mean	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.5
	Number	3	22	38	44	75	74	68	84	72	71
Quebec	Mean	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4
	Number	117	375	1,034	1,586	2,220	2,523	2,956	2,779	2,470	2,238
Ontario	Mean	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5
	Number	1,137	2,372	4,200	5,871	6,791	6,730	7,201	6,643	6,120	5,566
Saskatchewan	Mean	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.2	1.9	2.0
	Number	245	449	688	906	1,118	1,273	1,266	1,263	1,136	961
Alberta	Mean	1.7	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.9
	Number	378	810	1,380	1,880	2,315	2,317	2,621	2,380	2,259	2,045
Grand total	Mean	1.6	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6
	Number	1,970	4,197	7,561	10,592	12,836	13,250	14,428	13,418	12,294	11,103

Note: Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data might result in a small change in estimated rates of offending in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A14

Mean rates of offending, substantive incidents only, by active offenders at each year of age (λ), by sex and province

		Age at the time of the incident									
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Male											
Newfoundland and Labrador	Mean	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.3
	Number	78	118	167	241	249	278	251	209	189	184
Prince Edward Island	Mean	2.0	2.1	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4
	Number	3	17	26	29	54	54	50	63	57	59
Quebec	Mean	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
	Number	107	324	893	1,374	1,901	2,116	2,676	2,388	2,043	1,869
Ontario	Mean	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
	Number	917	1,659	2,904	4,117	4,976	4,993	5,511	5,153	4,865	4,315
Saskatchewan	Mean	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.5
	Number	178	286	453	584	793	928	911	886	785	665
Alberta	Mean	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5
	Number	276	520	927	1,235	1,620	1,638	1,930	1,744	1,708	1,524
Total male	Mean	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4
	Number	1,559	2,924	5,370	7,580	9,593	10,007	11,329	10,442	9,646	8,616
Female											
Newfoundland and Labrador	Mean	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.2
	Number	11	37	40	43	42	37	47	34	34	25
Prince Edward Island	Mean	n/a	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.2	2.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.0
	Number	0	5	11	11	14	11	12	17	10	10
Quebec	Mean	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1
	Number	8	46	107	132	169	185	215	189	207	168
Ontario	Mean	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2
	Number	209	626	1,049	1,268	1,323	1,062	1,098	913	753	731
Saskatchewan	Mean	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2
	Number	64	144	185	232	233	218	212	201	167	162
Alberta	Mean	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3
	Number	96	243	356	466	443	367	380	350	294	275
Total female	Mean	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
	Number	388	1,101	1,747	2,152	2,224	1,880	1,964	1,704	1,465	1,371
Total											
Newfoundland and Labrador	Mean	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.1
	Number	89	155	207	284	290	314	298	243	222	210
Prince Edward Island	Mean	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.3
	Number	3	22	37	40	68	65	62	80	67	69
Quebec	Mean	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3
	Number	115	370	1,000	1,506	2,070	2,301	2,891	2,577	2,250	2,037
Ontario	Mean	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3
	Number	1,126	2,285	3,952	5,385	6,299	6,056	6,609	6,066	5,618	5,045
Saskatchewan	Mean	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5
	Number	242	430	638	815	1,026	1,146	1,124	1,087	952	828
Alberta	Mean	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4
	Number	372	763	1,284	1,701	2,064	2,005	2,310	2,093	2,003	1,798
Grand total	Mean	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3
	Number	1,947	4,025	7,117	9,732	11,818	11,887	13,293	12,146	11,111	9,987

Note: Information from Quebec’s municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data might result in a small change in estimated rates of offending in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A15

Mean rates of offending by active offenders at each year of age (λ), by type of incident and sex

		Age at the time of the incident									
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Against the person											
Male	Mean	1.19	1.25	1.22	1.23	1.19	1.21	1.19	1.20	1.18	1.19
	Number	445	933	1,656	2,329	2,666	2,865	3,087	2,856	2,722	2,654
Female	Mean	1.22	1.22	1.19	1.17	1.12	1.14	1.15	1.11	1.08	1.10
	Number	84	367	624	737	667	616	527	481	418	432
Total	Mean	1.19	1.24	1.21	1.22	1.18	1.20	1.18	1.19	1.17	1.18
	Number	529	1,301	2,281	3,067	3,333	3,480	3,614	3,337	3,139	3,087
Property											
Male	Mean	1.50	1.55	1.60	1.67	1.69	1.64	1.54	1.52	1.43	1.44
	Number	1,133	2,029	3,656	4,919	6,068	5,754	5,412	4,085	3,341	2,577
Female	Mean	1.23	1.23	1.21	1.25	1.25	1.28	1.30	1.36	1.50	1.25
	Number	318	772	1,172	1,408	1,421	1,049	1,004	790	617	529
Total	Mean	1.44	1.46	1.50	1.58	1.61	1.58	1.50	1.50	1.44	1.41
	Number	1,450	2,801	4,827	6,326	7,490	6,804	6,415	4,875	3,958	3,107
Other											
Male	Mean	1.08	1.04	1.11	1.13	1.10	1.12	1.15	1.12	1.12	1.10
	Number	77	280	800	1,479	2,246	2,808	4,437	4,638	4,530	4,141
Female	Mean	1.00	1.20	1.11	1.04	1.10	1.08	1.18	1.10	1.12	1.07
	Number	11	48	126	186	283	357	542	527	485	447
Total	Mean	1.07	1.06	1.11	1.12	1.10	1.11	1.15	1.12	1.12	1.09
	Number	88	329	927	1,665	2,529	3,165	4,979	5,166	5,014	4,589
Administration of justice											
Male	Mean	1.60	1.70	1.82	1.81	1.72	1.69	1.68	1.60	1.53	1.56
	Number	137	503	1,112	2,081	2,724	3,254	3,413	3,266	3,007	2,739
Female	Mean	1.30	1.80	2.07	1.98	1.66	1.74	1.61	1.54	1.55	1.56
	Number	63	230	492	693	718	684	545	482	427	374
Total	Mean	1.50	1.73	1.90	1.85	1.71	1.70	1.67	1.60	1.54	1.56
	Number	200	733	1,605	2,774	3,442	3,938	3,957	3,748	3,433	3,113

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A16

Mean rates of offending by active offenders at each year of age (λ), by age at the time of the first referred incident (age of onset)

		Age at the time of the incident								
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Age of onset										
12	Mean	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.5	2.6	2.2
	Number	628	601	592	578	539	470	439	385	359
13	Mean	...	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.2
	Number	...	1,130	1,032	934	795	706	633	554	453
14	Mean	...	...	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0
	Number	...	...	1,785	1,438	1,202	1,101	967	805	676
15	Mean	...	...	...	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.1
	Number	...	...	...	2,081	1,528	1,303	1,108	892	878
16	Mean	...	...	...	...	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.9
	Number	...	...	...	...	1,946	1,393	1,173	976	856
17	Mean	...	...	...	...	...	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.7
	Number	...	...	...	...	...	1,520	1,042	845	731
18	Mean	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.9	1.8	1.8
	Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,366	949	758
19	Mean	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.8	1.7
	Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,032	701
Total	Mean	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6
	Number	4,197	7,561	10,592	12,836	13,250	14,428	13,418	12,294	11,103

... Not applicable

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A17

The mix of offences in court careers, by province and sex

	Male						Female						Total					
	No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total male		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total female		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Newfoundland and Labrador																		
Specialized																		
Person	87.4	111	12.6	16	10.9	127	88.6	39	11.4	5	17.7	44	87.7	150	12.3	21	12.1	171
Property	79.2	346	20.8	91	37.4	437	82.8	106	17.2	22	51.4	128	80.0	452	20.0	113	39.8	565
Other	94.1	190	5.9	12	17.3	202	89.5	17	10.5	2	7.6	19	93.7	207	6.3	14	15.6	221
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	24	2.1	24	...	...	100.0	7	2.8	7	...	...	100.0	31	2.2	31
Subtotal specialized	81.9	647	18.1	143	67.5	790	81.8	162	18.2	36	79.5	198	81.9	809	18.1	179	69.6	988
Versatile																		
Person, property	36.0	36	64.0	64	8.5	100	36.0	9	64.0	16	10.0	25	36.0	45	64.0	80	8.8	125
Person, other	64.7	22	35.3	12	2.9	34	75.0	3	25.0	1	1.6	4	65.8	25	34.2	13	2.7	38
Property, other	52.7	69	47.3	62	11.2	131	44.4	4	55.6	5	3.6	9	52.1	73	47.9	67	9.9	140
Person, property, other	11.3	13	88.7	102	9.8	115	0.0	0	100.0	13	5.2	13	10.2	13	89.8	115	9.0	128
Subtotal versatile	36.8	140	63.2	240	32.5	380	31.4	16	68.6	35	20.5	51	36.2	156	63.8	275	30.4	431
Total Newfoundland and Labrador	67.3	787	32.7	383	100.0	1,170	71.5	178	28.5	71	100.0	249	68.0	965	32.0	454	100.0	1,419
Prince Edward Island																		
Specialized																		
Person	84.0	21	16.0	4	10.2	25	90.9	10	9.1	1	14.7	11	86.1	31	13.9	5	11.3	36
Property	81.9	68	18.1	15	33.9	83	85.0	34	15.0	6	53.3	40	82.9	102	17.1	21	38.4	123
Other	92.3	48	7.7	4	21.2	52	91.7	11	8.3	1	16.0	12	92.2	59	7.8	5	20.0	64
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	1	0.4	1	...	...	100.0	3	4.0	3	...	...	100.0	4	1.3	4
Subtotal specialized	85.1	137	14.9	24	65.7	161	83.3	55	16.7	11	88.0	66	84.6	192	15.4	35	70.9	227
Versatile																		
Person, property	50.0	9	50.0	9	7.3	18	40.0	2	60.0	3	6.7	5	47.8	11	52.2	12	7.2	23
Person, other	100.0	2	0.0	0	0.8	2	100.0	1	0.0	0	1.3	1	100.0	3	0.0	0	0.9	3
Property, other	60.5	26	39.5	17	17.6	43	0.0	0	100.0	1	1.3	1	59.1	26	40.9	18	13.8	44
Person, property, other	19.0	4	81.0	17	8.6	21	0.0	0	100.0	2	2.7	2	17.4	4	82.6	19	7.2	23
Subtotal versatile	44.0	37	51.2	43	34.3	84	33.3	3	66.7	6	12.0	9	47.3	44	52.7	49	29.1	93
Total Prince Edward Island	72.7	178	27.3	67	100.0	245	77.3	58	22.7	17	100.0	75	73.8	236	26.3	84	100.0	320

Table A17 – continued

The mix of offences in court careers, by province and sex

	Male						Female						Total					
	No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total male		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total female		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Quebec																		
Specialized																		
Person	89.6	935	10.4	109	10.5	1,044	88.6	203	11.4	26	19.0	229	89.4	1,138	10.6	135	11.4	1,273
Property	88.0	1,430	12.0	195	16.4	1,625	91.0	274	9.0	27	25.0	301	88.5	1,704	11.5	222	17.3	1,926
Other	93.7	2,914	6.3	197	31.3	3,111	93.8	303	6.2	20	26.8	323	93.7	3,217	6.3	217	30.9	3,434
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	246	2.5	246	...	...	100.0	43	3.6	43	...	...	100.0	289	2.6	289
Subtotal specialized	87.6	5,279	12.4	747	60.7	6,026	87.1	780	12.9	116	74.5	896	87.5	6,059	12.5	863	62.2	6,922
Versatile																		
Person, property	63.1	255	36.9	149	4.1	404	72.2	39	27.8	15	4.5	54	64.2	294	35.8	164	4.1	458
Person, other	74.1	478	25.9	167	6.5	645	72.3	60	27.7	23	6.9	83	73.9	538	26.1	190	6.5	728
Property, other	61.0	920	39.0	587	15.2	1,507	71.3	82	28.7	33	9.6	115	61.8	1,002	38.2	620	14.6	1,622
Person, property, other	32.1	431	67.9	913	13.5	1,344	49.1	27	50.9	28	4.6	55	32.7	458	67.3	941	12.6	1,399
Subtotal versatile	53.4	2,084	46.6	1,816	39.3	3,900	67.8	208	32.2	99	25.5	307	54.5	2,292	45.5	1,915	37.8	4,207
Total Quebec	74.2	7,363	25.8	2,563	100.0	9,926	82.1	988	17.9	215	100.0	1,203	75.0	8,351	25.0	2,778	100.0	11,129
Ontario																		
Specialized																		
Person	83.8	2,532	16.2	489	12.2	3,021	82.8	1,058	17.2	220	17.8	1,278	83.5	3,590	16.5	709	13.4	4,299
Property	82.3	5,923	17.7	1,277	29.0	7,200	85.8	2,854	14.2	474	46.2	3,328	83.4	8,777	16.6	1,751	32.9	10,528
Other	89.4	4,263	10.6	507	19.2	4,770	89.0	695	11.0	86	10.8	781	89.3	4,958	10.7	593	17.3	5,551
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	811	3.3	811	...	...	100.0	289	4.0	289	...	...	100.0	1,100	3.4	1,100
Subtotal specialized	80.5	12,718	19.5	3,084	63.6	15,802	81.2	4,607	18.8	1,069	78.8	5,676	80.7	17,325	19.3	4,153	67.1	21,478
Versatile																		
Person, property	49.9	830	50.1	832	6.7	1,662	48.4	297	51.6	317	8.5	614	49.5	1,127	50.5	1,149	7.1	2,276
Person, other	67.6	872	32.4	418	5.2	1,290	66.0	142	34.0	73	3.0	215	67.4	1,014	32.6	491	4.7	1,505
Property, other	53.4	1,592	46.6	1,390	12.0	2,982	59.5	235	40.5	160	5.5	395	54.1	1,827	45.9	1,550	10.5	3,377
Person, property, other	21.7	671	78.3	2,425	12.5	3,096	28.1	84	71.9	215	4.2	299	22.2	755	77.8	2,640	10.6	3,395
Subtotal versatile	43.9	3,965	56.1	5,065	36.4	9,030	49.8	758	50.2	765	21.2	1,523	44.8	4,723	55.2	5,830	32.9	10,553
Total Ontario	67.2	16,683	32.8	8,149	100.0	24,832	74.5	5,365	25.5	1,834	100.0	7,199	68.8	22,048	31.2	9,983	100.0	32,031

Table A17 – continued
The mix of offences in court careers, by province and sex

	Male						Female						Total					
	No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total male		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total female		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Saskatchewan																		
Specialized																		
Person	78.4	189	21.6	52	7.1	241	76.6	131	23.4	40	14.7	171	77.7	320	22.3	92	9.0	412
Property	74.5	664	25.5	227	26.2	891	71.9	318	28.1	124	38.0	442	73.7	982	26.3	351	29.2	1,333
Other	87.1	718	12.9	106	24.3	824	88.5	169	11.5	22	16.4	191	87.4	887	12.6	128	22.3	1,015
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	106	3.1	106	...	...	100.0	22	1.9	22	...	...	100.0	128	2.8	128
Subtotal specialized	76.2	1,571	23.8	491	60.7	2,062	74.8	618	25.2	208	71.0	826	75.8	2,189	24.2	699	63.3	2,888
Versatile																		
Person, property	32.8	67	67.2	137	6.0	204	28.3	28	71.7	71	8.5	99	31.4	95	68.6	208	6.6	303
Person, other	50.4	61	49.6	60	3.6	121	69.2	18	30.8	8	2.2	26	53.7	79	46.3	68	3.2	147
Property, other	36.0	174	64.0	309	14.2	483	34.3	37	65.7	71	9.3	108	35.7	211	64.3	380	13.0	591
Person, property, other	6.5	34	93.5	492	15.5	526	10.6	11	89.4	93	8.9	104	7.1	45	92.9	585	13.8	630
Subtotal versatile	25.2	336	74.8	998	39.3	1,334	27.9	94	72.1	243	29.0	337	25.7	430	74.3	1,241	36.7	1,671
Total Saskatchewan	56.2	1,907	43.8	1,489	100.0	3,396	61.2	712	38.8	451	100.0	1,163	57.4	2,619	42.6	1,940	100.0	4,559
Alberta																		
Specialized																		
Person	81.3	483	18.7	111	8.1	594	78.6	231	21.4	63	13.4	294	80.4	714	19.6	174	9.3	888
Property	69.4	1,440	30.6	635	28.3	2,075	71.2	681	28.8	276	43.5	957	70.0	2,121	30.0	911	31.8	3,032
Other	82.0	1,258	18.0	276	20.9	1,534	79.1	223	20.9	59	12.8	282	81.6	1,481	18.4	335	19.0	1,816
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	205	2.8	205	...	...	100.0	58	2.6	58	...	...	100.0	263	2.8	263
Subtotal specialized	72.2	3,181	27.8	1,227	60.1	4,408	71.3	1,135	28.7	456	72.3	1,591	71.9	4,316	28.1	1,683	62.9	5,999
Versatile																		
Person, property	39.8	202	60.2	306	6.9	508	36.8	75	63.2	129	9.3	204	38.9	277	61.1	435	7.5	712
Person, other	61.9	187	38.1	115	4.1	302	62.1	36	37.9	22	2.6	58	61.9	223	38.1	137	3.8	360
Property, other	45.2	473	54.8	573	14.3	1,046	31.3	55	68.8	121	8.0	176	43.2	528	56.8	694	12.8	1,222
Person, property, other	14.8	159	85.2	914	14.6	1,073	14.5	25	85.5	147	7.8	172	14.8	184	85.2	1,061	13.1	1,245
Subtotal versatile	34.9	1,021	65.1	1,908	39.9	2,929	31.3	191	68.7	419	27.7	610	34.2	1,212	65.8	2,327	37.1	3,539
Total Alberta	57.3	4,202	42.7	3,135	100.0	7,337	60.2	1,326	39.8	875	100.0	2,201	58.0	5,528	42.0	4,010	100.0	9,538

Table A17 – concluded

The mix of offences in court careers, by province and sex

	Male						Female						Total					
	No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total male		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total female		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
All jurisdictions																		
Specialized																		
Person	84.5	4,271	15.5	781	10.8	5,052	82.5	1,672	17.5	355	16.8	2,027	84.0	5,943	16.0	1,136	12.0	7,079
Property	80.2	9,871	19.8	2,440	26.2	12,311	82.1	4,267	17.9	929	43.0	5,196	80.8	14,138	19.2	3,369	29.7	17,507
Other	89.5	9,391	10.5	1,102	22.4	10,493	88.2	1,418	11.8	190	13.3	1,608	89.3	10,809	10.7	1,292	20.5	12,101
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	1,393	3.0	1,393	...	...	100.0	422	3.5	422	...	...	100.0	1,815	3.1	1,815
Subtotal specialized	80.5	23,533	19.5	5,716	62.4	29,249	79.5	7,357	20.5	1,896	76.5	9,253	80.2	30,890	19.8	7,612	65.3	38,502
Versatile																		
Person, property	48.3	1,399	51.7	1,497	6.2	2,896	45.0	450	55.0	551	8.3	1,001	47.4	1,849	52.6	2,048	6.6	3,897
Person, other	67.8	1,622	32.2	772	5.1	2,394	67.2	260	32.8	127	3.2	387	67.7	1,882	32.3	899	4.7	2,781
Property, other	52.6	3,254	47.4	2,938	13.2	6,192	51.4	413	48.6	391	6.7	804	52.4	3,667	47.6	3,329	11.9	6,996
Person, property, other	21.2	1,312	78.8	4,863	13.2	6,175	22.8	147	77.2	498	5.3	645	21.4	1,459	78.6	5,361	11.6	6,820
Subtotal versatile	42.9	7,583	57.0	10,070	37.6	17,657	44.8	1,270	55.2	1,567	23.5	2,837	43.2	8,857	56.8	11,637	34.7	20,494
Grand total	66.3	31,120	33.7	15,786	100.0	46,906	71.4	8,627	28.6	3,463	100.0	12,090	67.4	39,747	32.6	19,249	100.0	58,996

... Not applicable

Notes: Numbers do not add to the totals in Table A2 due to rounding error.

Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data might result in a small change in the estimated mix of offences in court careers in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A18

The mix of offences in the court careers of repeat offenders, by province and sex

	Male						Female						Total					
	No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total male		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total female		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Newfoundland and Labrador																		
Specialized																		
Person	31.8	7	68.2	15	4.0	22	60.0	6	40.0	4	11.4	10	40.6	13	59.4	19	5.0	32
Property	45.7	69	54.3	82	27.5	151	44.1	15	55.9	19	38.6	34	45.4	84	54.6	101	29.0	185
Other	60.7	17	39.3	11	5.1	28	0.0	0	100.0	2	2.3	2	56.7	17	43.3	13	4.7	30
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	4	0.7	4	...	...	0.0	0	0.0	0	...	...	100.0	4	0.6	4
Subtotal specialized	45.4	93	54.6	112	37.3	205	45.7	21	54.3	25	52.3	46	45.4	114	54.6	137	39.4	251
Versatile																		
Person, property	34.1	31	65.9	60	16.6	91	25.0	5	75.0	15	22.7	20	32.4	36	67.6	75	17.4	111
Person, other	62.5	15	37.5	9	4.4	24	100.0	2	0.0	0	2.3	2	65.4	17	34.6	9	4.1	26
Property, other	48.7	57	51.3	60	21.3	117	28.6	2	71.4	5	8.0	7	47.6	59	52.4	65	19.5	124
Person, property, other	8.9	10	91.1	102	20.4	112	0.0	0	100.0	13	14.8	13	8.0	10	92.0	115	19.6	125
Subtotal versatile	32.8	113	67.2	231	62.7	344	21.4	9	78.6	33	47.7	42	31.6	122	68.4	264	60.6	386
Total Newfoundland and Labrador	37.5	206	62.5	343	100.0	549	34.1	30	65.9	58	100.0	88	37.0	236	63.0	401	100.0	637
Prince Edward Island																		
Specialized																		
Person	0.0	0	100.0	4	3.3	4	0.0	0	100.0	1	3.8	1	0.0	0	100.0	5	3.4	5
Property	46.2	12	53.8	14	21.7	26	64.3	9	35.7	5	53.8	14	52.5	21	47.5	19	27.4	40
Other	63.6	7	36.4	4	9.2	11	0.0	0	100.0	1	3.8	1	58.3	7	41.7	5	8.2	12
Administration of justice	...	...	0.0	0	0.0	0	...	...	100.0	2	7.7	2	...	...	100.0	2	1.4	2
Subtotal specialized	46.3	19	53.7	22	34.2	41	50.0	9	50.0	9	69.2	18	47.5	28	52.5	31	40.4	59
Versatile																		
Person, property	43.8	7	56.3	9	13.3	16	40.0	2	60.0	3	19.2	5	42.9	9	57.1	12	14.4	21
Person, other	100.0	2	0.0	0	1.7	2	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	100.0	2	0.0	0	1.4	2
Property, other	57.5	23	42.5	17	33.3	40	0.0	0	100.0	1	3.8	1	56.1	23	43.9	18	28.1	41
Person, property, other	19.0	4	81.0	17	17.5	21	0.0	0	100.0	2	7.7	2	17.4	4	82.6	19	15.8	23
Subtotal versatile	45.6	36	54.4	43	65.8	79	25.0	2	75.0	6	30.8	8	43.7	38	56.3	49	59.6	87
Total Prince Edward Island	45.8	55	54.2	65	100.0	120	42.3	11	57.7	15	100.0	26	45.2	66	54.8	80	100.0	146

Table A18 – continued

The mix of offences in the court careers of repeat offenders, by province and sex

	Male						Female						Total					
	No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total male		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total female		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Quebec																		
Specialized																		
Person	54.5	97	45.5	81	4.1	178	58.7	27	41.3	19	13.2	46	55.4	124	44.6	100	4.8	224
Property	65.5	326	34.5	172	11.5	498	58.5	31	41.5	22	15.2	53	64.8	357	35.2	194	11.8	551
Other	69.7	377	30.3	164	12.5	541	63.4	26	36.6	15	11.7	41	69.2	403	30.8	179	12.4	582
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	39	0.9	39	...	...	100.0	5	1.4	5	...	...	100.0	44	0.9	44
Subtotal specialized	63.7	800	36.3	456	28.9	1,256	57.9	84	42.1	61	41.5	145	63.1	884	36.9	517	29.9	1,401
Versatile																		
Person, property	50.9	148	49.1	143	6.7	291	64.1	25	35.9	14	11.2	39	52.4	173	47.6	157	7.0	330
Person, other	60.5	228	39.5	149	8.7	377	47.6	20	52.4	22	12.0	42	59.2	248	40.8	171	8.9	419
Property, other	50.9	582	49.1	562	26.4	1,144	54.9	39	45.1	32	20.3	71	51.1	621	48.9	594	25.9	1,215
Person, property, other	29.0	368	71.0	903	29.3	1,271	46.2	24	53.8	28	14.9	52	29.6	392	70.4	931	28.2	1,323
Subtotal versatile	43.0	1,326	57.0	1,757	71.1	3,083	52.9	108	47.1	96	58.5	204	43.6	1,434	56.4	1,853	70.1	3,287
Total Quebec	49.0	2,126	51.0	2,213	100.0	4,339	55.0	192	45.0	157	100.0	349	49.4	2,318	50.6	2,370	100.0	4,688
Ontario																		
Specialized																		
Person	44.2	302	55.8	382	6.2	684	32.9	94	67.1	192	12.0	286	40.8	396	59.2	574	7.2	970
Property	45.9	911	54.1	1,074	18.0	1,985	41.7	310	58.3	434	31.2	744	44.7	1,221	55.3	1,508	20.4	2,729
Other	51.1	383	48.9	366	6.8	749	25.6	21	74.4	61	3.4	82	48.6	404	51.4	427	6.2	831
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	105	1.0	105	...	...	100.0	44	1.8	44	...	...	100.0	149	1.1	149
Subtotal specialized	45.3	1,596	54.7	1,927	32.0	3,523	36.8	425	63.2	731	48.4	1,156	43.2	2,021	56.8	2,658	34.9	4,679
Versatile																		
Person, property	42.7	588	57.3	788	12.5	1,376	42.1	223	57.9	307	22.2	530	42.5	811	57.5	1,095	14.2	1,906
Person, other	55.6	473	44.4	377	7.7	850	49.6	66	50.4	67	5.6	133	54.8	539	45.2	444	7.3	983
Property, other	43.1	979	56.9	1,290	20.6	2,269	46.7	134	53.3	153	12.0	287	43.5	1,113	56.5	1,443	19.1	2,556
Person, property, other	19.8	589	80.2	2,393	27.1	2,982	24.5	69	75.5	213	11.8	282	20.2	658	79.8	2,606	24.4	3,264
Subtotal versatile	35.2	2,629	64.8	4,848	68.0	7,477	39.9	492	60.1	740	51.6	1,232	35.8	3,121	64.2	5,588	65.1	8,709
Total Ontario	38.4	4,225	61.6	6,775	100.0	11,000	38.4	917	61.6	1,471	100.0	2,388	38.4	5,142	61.6	8,246	100.0	13,388

Table A18 – continued

The mix of offences in the court careers of repeat offenders, by province and sex

	Male						Female						Total					
	No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total male		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total female		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
Saskatchewan																		
Specialized																		
Person	26.3	15	73.7	42	3.1	57	25.0	12	75.0	36	8.7	48	25.7	27	74.3	78	4.4	105
Property	35.0	106	65.0	197	16.6	303	28.2	46	71.8	117	29.7	163	32.6	152	67.4	314	19.7	466
Other	49.4	86	50.6	88	9.6	174	40.0	12	60.0	18	5.5	30	48.0	98	52.0	106	8.6	204
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	24	1.3	24	...	...	100.0	1	0.2	1	...	...	100.0	25	1.1	25
Subtotal specialized	37.1	207	62.9	351	30.7	558	28.9	70	71.1	172	44.1	242	34.6	277	65.4	523	33.8	800
Versatile																		
Person, property	29.9	58	70.1	136	10.7	194	26.9	25	73.1	68	16.9	93	28.9	83	71.1	204	12.1	287
Person, other	42.4	42	57.6	57	5.4	99	60.0	12	40.0	8	3.6	20	45.4	54	54.6	65	5.0	119
Property, other	32.4	144	67.6	301	24.5	445	23.3	21	76.7	69	16.4	90	30.8	165	69.2	370	22.6	535
Person, property, other	6.3	33	93.7	491	28.8	524	10.6	11	89.4	93	18.9	104	7.0	44	93.0	584	26.5	628
Subtotal versatile	21.9	277	78.1	985	69.3	1,262	22.5	69	77.5	238	55.9	307	22.1	346	77.9	1,223	66.2	1,569
Total Saskatchewan	26.6	484	73.4	1,336	100.0	1,820	25.3	139	74.7	410	100.0	549	26.3	623	73.7	1,746	100.0	2,369
Alberta																		
Specialized																		
Person	33.8	53	66.2	104	3.8	157	30.6	26	69.4	59	7.7	85	32.6	79	67.4	163	4.6	242
Property	36.3	335	63.7	587	22.4	922	30.3	112	69.7	258	33.5	370	34.6	447	65.4	845	24.7	1,292
Other	35.0	137	65.0	254	9.5	391	22.7	17	77.3	58	6.8	75	33.0	154	67.0	312	8.9	466
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	55	1.3	55	...	...	100.0	14	1.3	14	...	...	100.0	69	1.3	69
Subtotal specialized	34.4	525	65.6	1,000	37.0	1,525	28.5	155	71.5	389	49.2	544	32.9	680	67.1	1,389	39.6	2,069
Versatile																		
Person, property	34.9	159	65.1	297	11.1	456	34.2	67	65.8	129	17.7	196	34.7	226	65.3	426	12.5	652
Person, other	49.1	104	50.9	108	5.1	212	48.8	21	51.2	22	3.9	43	49.0	125	51.0	130	4.9	255
Property, other	37.4	331	62.6	553	21.4	884	22.1	34	77.9	120	13.9	154	35.2	365	64.8	673	19.9	1,038
Person, property, other	13.6	142	86.4	905	25.4	1,047	13.1	22	86.9	146	15.2	168	13.5	164	86.5	1,051	23.2	1,215
Subtotal versatile	28.3	736	71.7	1,863	63.0	2,599	25.7	144	74.3	417	50.8	561	27.8	880	72.2	2,280	60.4	3,160
Total Alberta	30.6	1,261	69.4	2,863	100.0	4,124	27.1	299	72.9	806	100.0	1,105	29.8	1,560	70.2	3,669	100.0	5,229

Table A18 – concluded

The mix of offences in the court careers of repeat offenders, by province and sex

	Male						Female						Total					
	No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total male		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total female		No administrative offences		With administrative offences		Total	
	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number
All jurisdictions																		
Specialized																		
Person	43.0	474	57.0	628	5.0	1,102	34.7	165	65.3	311	10.6	476	40.5	639	59.5	939	6.0	1,578
Property	45.3	1,759	54.7	2,126	17.7	3,885	38.0	523	62.0	855	30.6	1,378	43.4	2,282	56.6	2,981	19.9	5,263
Other	53.2	1,007	46.8	887	8.6	1,894	32.9	76	67.1	155	5.1	231	51.0	1,083	49.0	1,042	8.0	2,125
Administration of justice	...	...	100.0	227	1.0	227	...	...	100.0	66	1.5	66	...	...	100.0	293	1.1	293
Subtotal specialized	45.6	3,240	54.4	3,868	32.4	7,108	35.5	764	64.5	1,387	47.7	2,151	43.2	4,004	56.8	5,255	35.0	9,259
Versatile																		
Person, property	40.9	991	59.1	1,433	11.0	2,424	39.3	347	60.7	536	19.6	883	40.5	1,338	59.5	1,969	12.5	3,307
Person, other	55.2	864	44.8	700	7.1	1,564	50.4	121	49.6	119	5.3	240	54.6	985	45.4	819	6.8	1,804
Property, other	43.2	2,116	56.8	2,783	22.3	4,899	37.7	230	62.3	380	13.5	610	42.6	2,346	57.4	3,163	20.8	5,509
Person, property, other	19.2	1,146	80.8	4,811	27.1	5,957	20.3	126	79.7	495	13.8	621	19.3	1,272	80.7	5,306	24.9	6,578
Subtotal versatile	34.5	5,117	65.5	9,727	67.6	14,844	35.0	824	65.0	1,530	52.3	2,354	34.5	5,941	65.5	11,257	65.0	17,198
Grand total	38.1	8,357	61.9	13,595	100.0	21,952	35.2	1,588	64.8	2,917	100.0	4,505	37.6	9,945	62.4	16,512	100.0	26,457

... Not applicable

Note: Information from Quebec's municipal courts (which accounted for approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges related to adults in that province) was not available. Inclusion of municipal court data might result in a small change in the estimated mix of offences in court careers in Quebec. See Methodology section.

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A19

Percentage of repeat offenders, by the type of career, number of referred incidents before the age of 22, and age at the time of the first referred incident

Number of incidents in the career	Type of career	Age at first referred incident										Total
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
2	Specialized	57.1	47.9	55.4	52.4	53.2	57.9	58.6	57.8	63.1	69.0	57.0
	Versatile	42.9	52.1	44.6	47.6	46.8	42.1	41.4	42.2	36.9	31.0	43.0
3	Specialized	39.8	43.3	39.9	35.4	38.5	35.1	40.6	45.4	51.3	58.1	40.4
	Versatile	60.2	56.7	60.1	64.6	61.5	64.9	59.4	54.6	48.7	41.9	59.6
4	Specialized	27.8	31.4	24.8	26.5	25.9	24.2	25.6	31.9	42.3	42.2	27.6
	Versatile	72.2	68.6	75.2	73.5	74.1	75.8	74.4	68.1	57.7	57.8	72.4
5	Specialized	21.4	22.5	24.0	21.7	23.2	19.4	27.6	29.6	39.0	40.0	24.0
	Versatile	78.6	77.5	76.0	78.3	76.8	80.6	72.4	70.4	61.0	60.0	76.0
6	Specialized	22.2	21.8	16.6	11.9	17.8	15.5	18.0	22.4	30.6	0.0	17.4
	Versatile	77.8	78.2	83.4	88.1	82.2	84.5	82.0	77.6	69.4	100.0	82.6
7	Specialized	11.9	22.5	9.9	15.3	14.6	18.3	26.9	10.2	21.1	30.0	15.9
	Versatile	88.1	77.5	90.1	84.7	85.4	81.7	73.1	89.8	78.9	70.0	84.1
8	Specialized	10.9	12.9	13.4	8.4	12.5	14.1	16.0	35.7	25.0	42.9	14.0
	Versatile	89.1	87.1	86.6	91.6	87.5	85.9	84.0	64.3	75.0	57.1	86.0
9	Specialized	10.5	13.3	9.9	11.5	15.6	11.3	12.5	20.8	0.0	100.0	12.7
	Versatile	89.5	86.7	90.1	88.5	84.4	88.7	87.5	79.2	100.0	0.0	87.3
10	Specialized	4.4	7.9	11.0	12.5	6.8	8.3	18.8	0.0	100.0	...	10.2
	Versatile	95.6	92.1	89.0	87.5	93.2	91.7	81.3	100.0	0.0	...	89.8
11	Specialized	2.9	9.4	14.1	9.8	4.8	9.6	6.7	0.0	30.0	...	9.2
	Versatile	97.1	90.6	85.9	90.2	95.2	90.4	93.3	100.0	70.0	...	90.8
12	Specialized	2.8	14.6	16.0	5.4	0.0	2.7	21.1	7.1	25.0	...	8.5
	Versatile	97.2	85.4	84.0	94.6	100.0	97.3	78.9	92.9	75.0	...	91.5
13 or more	Specialized	2.9	2.4	3.1	4.0	2.9	5.0	9.4	25.0	50.0	100.0	3.9
	Versatile	97.1	97.6	96.9	96.0	97.1	95.0	90.6	75.0	50.0	0.0	96.1
Total	Specialized	21.6	24.8	27.7	28.6	32.2	36.4	42.6	46.4	55.4	63.5	35.0
	Versatile	78.4	75.2	72.3	71.4	67.8	63.6	57.4	53.6	44.6	36.5	65.0

... Not applicable

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A20

Mean value of the index of escalation, by sex and the age at the time of the first referred incident, offenders with 3 or more referred substantive incidents

	Mean index of escalation		Total
	Male	Female	
Age at first referred incident			
12	-0.3	2.8	0.1
13	-3.9	0.3	-3.1
14	-2.6	-3.7	-2.8
15	-3.6	0.9	-3.0
16	-3.6	-1.0	-3.4
17	-2.8	-5.7	-3.1
18	-2.7	-0.5	-2.4
19	2.8	-0.5	2.4
20	3.0	1.0	2.7
Total	-2.6	-0.9	-2.3
Number	11,937	1,830	13,767

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A21

Percentage of offenders, by sex, the type of career, and the most serious charge in the career

	Male			Total
	Adolescent-limited	Persistent	Adult onset	
Most serious charge in the career	Percentage			
Person	29.0	61.9	26.5	35.2
Property	50.1	28.5	28.4	35.6
Other	15.5	8.1	38.6	24.2
Administration of justice	5.4	1.5	6.5	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	15,471	10,447	20,991	46,909
	Female			Total
	Adolescent-limited	Persistent	Adult onset	
Most serious charge in the career	Percentage			
Person	30.6	64.1	26.7	33.5
Property	56.3	28.6	40.8	47.0
Other	7.7	5.0	26.2	14.1
Administration of justice	5.4	2.3	6.3	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,093	1,585	4,413	12,091
	Total			Total
	Adolescent-limited	Persistent	Adult onset	
Most serious charge in the career	Percentage			
Person	29.5	62.2	26.5	34.8
Property	51.9	28.5	30.6	37.9
Other	13.3	7.7	36.4	22.2
Administration of justice	5.4	1.6	6.5	5.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	21,564	12,032	25,405	59,000

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A22

Percentage of repeat offenders, by sex, the type of career, and the age at the time of the first referred incident

	Male		Total
	Adolescent-limited	Persistent	
Age at the first incident	Percentage		
12	5.4	7.0	6.1
13	9.4	10.3	9.8
14	16.5	16.8	16.6
15	21.2	20.6	20.9
16	24.4	23.0	23.9
17	23.0	22.4	22.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	15,471	10,447	25,918
	Female		
	Adolescent-limited	Persistent	Total
Age at the first incident	Percentage		
12	4.8	6.9	5.2
13	13.5	13.6	13.5
14	19.8	19.7	19.8
15	23.6	20.4	22.9
16	21.4	20.1	21.1
17	17.0	19.4	17.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	6,093	1,585	7,678
	Total		
	Adolescent-limited	Persistent	Total
Age at the first incident	Percentage		
12	5.3	6.9	5.9
13	10.6	10.7	10.6
14	17.5	17.2	17.4
15	21.8	20.6	21.4
16	23.6	22.6	23.2
17	21.3	22.0	21.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	21,564	12,032	33,596

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Table A23

Percentage of repeat offenders, by the type of career, number of referred incidents before the age of 20, and age at the time of the first referred incident

Number of incidents in the career	Type of career	Age at first referred incident				Total
		12 to 13	14 to 15	16 to 17	18 to 19	
2	Specialized	50.9	53.7	55.5	58.3	55.5
	Versatile	49.1	46.3	44.5	41.7	44.5
3	Specialized	42.4	37.4	36.9	42.6	39.1
	Versatile	57.6	62.6	63.1	57.4	60.9
4	Specialized	30.1	25.7	25.1	27.9	26.5
	Versatile	69.9	74.3	74.9	72.1	73.5
5	Specialized	22.2	22.7	21.3	28.3	23.2
	Versatile	77.8	77.3	78.7	71.7	76.8
6	Specialized	22.0	14.0	17.0	19.5	17.1
	Versatile	78.0	86.0	83.0	80.5	82.9
7	Specialized	18.4	12.8	16.0	19.7	15.7
	Versatile	81.6	87.2	84.0	80.3	84.3
8 to 9	Specialized	12.7	10.8	13.4	20.5	13.2
	Versatile	87.3	89.2	86.6	79.5	86.8
10 to 12	Specialized	7.9	11.4	5.5	12.0	9.0
	Versatile	92.1	88.6	94.5	88.0	91.0
13 or more	Specialized	2.6	3.5	3.5	14.1	3.7
	Versatile	97.4	96.5	96.5	85.9	96.3
Total	Specialized	23.6	28.2	34.1	44.2	32.8
	Versatile	76.4	71.8	65.9	55.8	67.2

Data source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Court Survey and Adult Criminal Court Survey.

Table source: Statistics Canada, 2005, Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, Catalogue no. 85-561-XIE2005006.

Endnotes

1. By “criminal career”, we refer to the sequence of incidents in which an individual is involved, which result in charges being laid, and a referral to court, whether or not the individual is convicted of the charge(s). This usage is consistent with the criminological literature on “criminal careers”, which generally relies on records of police contacts or court referrals as evidence of criminal activity.
2. Prevalence is cited in rates per 100 cohort population, rather than percentages of the cohort, because the population at risk, on which the prevalence estimates are based, is not identical to the population from which the offenders are drawn. See the Methodology section for the method used to estimate the populations at risk, i.e. the denominators of the fractions from which the rates are derived.
3. Breakdowns by sex and province are in Table A2.
4. Adults who had charges heard in Quebec municipal courts, and had no charges heard in youth court or provincial court in Quebec would be omitted from the prevalence estimate. For additional information on this issue, see Methodology section.
5. Including prison and conditional sentences of imprisonment (in criminal court), and open and secure custody (in youth court). See Table A3.
6. See “A life-course typology of delinquent/criminal careers”.
7. Breakdowns by province and sex are given in Table A4. The cohort population estimates on which these prevalence estimates are based are shown in Table A5.
8. Data from the Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey for 1992-1999 show that 71% of chargeable 18 year olds were charged, versus 65% of chargeable 17 year olds. This is a ratio of 1.09, which is approximately equal to the ratio of the rates of 18 and 17 year olds referred to court in Figure 2 ($4.6/4.3 = 1.07$). In other words, if 17 and 18 year olds were apprehended by police for crimes at the same rate, the difference in charging by police would more than explain the increase in proportions of 18 year olds referred to court and convicted.
9. The offences included in each group are listed in the Methodology section. Breakdowns by province and sex are given in Table A6. The corresponding breakdowns of estimated proportions of the cohort found guilty on at least one charge are given in Table A7.
10. See Table 16 for a list of offences classified as against the administration of justice.
11. Breakdowns by province, age at the time of the incident, and sex are in Table A8.
12. See footnote 8.
13. Breakdowns by province, age at the time of the incident, and sex are in Table A9.
14. Breakdowns of mean numbers of incidents by province and sex are in Table A10. Breakdowns of types of offenders (chronic, repeat and one-time) by sex, for all incidents and for substantive incidents only, are in Table A11.
15. See Tables A10 and A11.
16. The observation period extends to March 31, 2003, when all cohort members had reached or passed their 23rd birthday, although not all incidents occurring at the ages of 21 to 23 are recorded in the data: cases which had not reached disposition by March 31, 2003 are excluded.
17. Breakdowns by province and sex are in Table A12.
18. Data extending beyond the 20th birthday would be needed to determine whether the upward trend after the age of 17 is due to a tendency for careers of adult-onset offenders to be longer than those of adolescent-onset offenders, or is merely an artifact of the truncated period of observation.
19. The minimum value for the y-axis is 1, since each offender must be involved in at least one referred incident at a given age in order to be considered “active”. Breakdowns by sex and province are in Table A13.
20. “Substantive incidents” are defined as incidents in which there is at least one substantive charge. See the Methodology section for the classification of offences into substantive and administrative.
21. Breakdowns by sex and province are in Table A14.
22. Breakdowns by sex are in Table A15. See Table 16 for the classification of incidents into these four groups.

23. Substantive offences are all offences except those against the administration of justice. See the Methodology section for more information on the grouping of types of offences into these four categories.
24. 1,815 offenders, or 3.1% of the population, have only administrative charges in their court careers. Examination of the specific charges of these offenders showed that most were bail violations, failure to appear for court, and breach of probation – charges which normally imply a prior charge on a substantive offence. There are several possible explanations for this anomaly. One possibility is that the prior substantive offence was a provincial statute offence, which are outside the scope of this study. Alternatively, the record of the prior substantive offence may not have been reported to the YCS or ACCS, or it might have been reported but the record was deemed to be of such poor quality that it was excluded. Another possibility is a false negative in the record matching process: that is, two charges pertaining to the same person have not been matched, and are treated as belonging to two different persons. This could occur because of errors in the recording of the person's name or birth date, or because the person moved between two provinces, or between the "regions" established for this study in Ontario and Alberta (see the Methodology section for details of the record matching procedure).
25. Breakdowns by province and sex are in Table A17.
26. Not all one-time offenders are necessarily specialists, since they may have been referred to court on more than one charge, including different types of substantive offences, related to their one incident.
27. This groups offenders who were previously called "repeat" (2 to 4 incidents) and "chronic" (5 or more incidents).
28. Breakdowns by province and sex are in Table A18.
29. Offenders whose age of onset was 20 or 21 were omitted due to unstable results resulting from the small numbers in some cells and the short period of observation for these age groups.
30. See Table 16 for the classification of incidents and offences. For the analyses reported in this section, administrative charges are treated as "summary/hybrid other" charges.
31. E.g. if the first incident results in a most serious charge of theft under, having a seriousness value of 82, and the most serious charge in the last incident is assault level 1 with a seriousness value of 29, then the index of escalation has a positive value ($82 - 29 = 53$), indicating escalation.
32. A breakdown by sex is in Table A20.
33. This was defined as the charge with the lowest seriousness score (defined in the previous section).
34. The breakdown by sex is in Table A21.
35. Not just the most serious incident, as in Table 9.
36. The breakdown by sex is in Table A22.
37. The ages cited in these analyses are ages at the time of the criminal incident, not of the court appearance.
38. See Table 16 for the classification of types of offences and incidents.
39. This is fiscal 1979/80. The birth cohort was defined by a fiscal year rather than a calendar year in order to be consistent with the (fiscal) reporting period for the court data.
40. Approximately 25% of Criminal Code charges in Quebec are heard in municipal courts, not provincial courts (Thomas, 2004: 11). These charges are not captured by the ACCS, and consequently could not be included in the present study, which is therefore limited to incidents and persons processed in youth courts and provincial (criminal) courts. Although the impact on the results of this research of the omission of municipal court data for Quebec cannot be estimated precisely, it is not large; see the Methodology section, "Criminal charges heard in municipal courts in Quebec".
41. For more information on record matching problems in the data for the Yukon, see footnote 45.
42. Data files were also constructed for the cohorts born in 1980/81 and 1981/82. These were used for validity checking of results obtained for the 1979/80 cohort. However, results from the two younger cohorts are not reported because their careers could be followed only until their 20th and 19th birthdays respectively.
43. The incident is certainly not the only possible intermediate level of aggregation of charge records. Others could be used, depending on the researcher's interest. Research on sentencing would probably aggregate charges to the "case-at-disposition"; that is, the case consisting of all charges which were disposed of in one hearing. This is the aggregation of charges which is currently used in the reports by Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics on the court surveys (e.g. Ciccone McCutcheon, 2003; Robinson, 2004).
44. Data for the province of Quebec use the Henri code, which is more suited to coding French-Canadian names. See Armstrong (2000) for details of the Soundex and Henri codes, and a discussion of the issues surrounding their use in record matching.
45. Manual verification of name and date of birth information in the YCS and ACCS for a sample of records from the Yukon found an unacceptably high number of false negative matches, due in part to changes of name by residents of that territory. Therefore, the Yukon was omitted from the study. This problem was not apparent in the results of manual verification of data from the other jurisdictions.

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