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Canadian Centre for Justice  
Statistics Profile Series



# Children and Youth in Canada

This paper is one in a series of ten profiles funded through the federal Policy Research Initiative. The objective of these profiles is to provide data analysis on the experience of various groups as victims and offenders\* in the criminal justice system.

The profiles are based on Statistics Canada sources and include a mix of demographic, economic and justice data as well as information specific to each group.

**Other profiles in this series include:**

- Aboriginal People in Canada
- Canadians with Disabilities
- Canadians with Low Incomes
- Canadians with Literacy Problems\*\*
- Immigrants in Canada
- Religious Groups in Canada
- Seniors in Canada
- Visible Minorities in Canada
- Women in Canada

\* Data on offenders is only available for the following: Aboriginal People, Children and Youth, Seniors, and Women.

\*\* The literacy profile does not include a criminal justice component.

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# Children and Youth in Canada

## Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Children and Youth<sup>1</sup>

### *Children and youth make up a substantial portion of Canadian population<sup>2</sup>*

Childhood and youth are periods of rapid development and growth, as well as intense learning. In the years under age 15, children learn reading and writing, basic numerical skills, and the social skills and values that will sustain them throughout their lives, while the ages of 15-19 are a critical transition period from childhood to adulthood.

Children and youth currently make up a substantial portion of the Canadian population (see Tables 1, 2). In 2000, there were almost 8 million children and youth under the age of 20 in Canada, representing over one in four (26%) of the total population. That year, there were 5.9 million children under the age of 15, who constituted 19% of the total population. At the same time, there were just over 2 million Canadians aged 15-19, representing 7% of the overall population.

The share of the population accounted for by children and youth, however, has been declining steadily since the 1960s, when the population under the age of 20 accounted for over 40% of the total population following the Baby Boom of the late 1940s and 1950s. Children and youth also represented a relatively large share of the population in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1921, for example, those under the age of 20 accounted for 44% of the population of Canada.

The share of the population represented by children and youth is expected to decline even further in the coming decades. Statistics Canada has projected that by 2026 those under the age of 20 will constitute just 20% of the total population of Canada, down from 26% in 2000.

Among the population under the age of 20, males slightly outnumber females. In 2000, 51% of Canadians under the age of 20 were male, while 49% were female.

### *Children across the country*

The share of the population accounted for by children and youth is relatively consistent in all provinces, ranging from a high of 29% in Saskatchewan to a low of 24% in Quebec. Ontario, however, is the home of the largest number of children and youth in Canada. In 2000, there were over 3 million residents of Ontario under the age of 20. In fact, that year, 84% of all children and youth in Canada lived in one of the four most populous provinces, Ontario (38%), Quebec (23%), British Columbia (13%) and Alberta (11%).

Children and youth also account for a relatively large share of the population of the territories. In 2000, 37% of all residents of the three territories were under the age of 20, with 28% under the age of 15 and 8% aged 15-19. This figure was highest in Nunavut, where almost half (47%) of the population in 2000 was under the age of 20. At the same time, children and youth represented 35% of residents of the Northwest Territories and 29% of those in the Yukon.

### *A largely urban population*

As with the overall population, most children and youth live in an urban area. In 1996, three-quarters of all those under the age of 20 lived in an area classified as urban. That year, 55% lived in a Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), that is, an urban area of over 100,000 people, while 7% lived in urban areas with populations between 10,000 and 100,000, and 13% lived in smaller urban centres. At the same time, 25% of children and youth lived in rural areas.

Children and youth, however, account for a relatively large share

of the population in rural areas. In 1996, people under the age of 20 made up 34% of the population living on farms, compared with 28% of those living in non-CMA urban areas and just 26% of those in CMAs.

### *Children and youth as part of the Aboriginal, visible minority and immigrant populations*

Children and youth make up relatively large shares of both the Aboriginal and visible minority populations in Canada, while they are underrepresented among immigrants. In 1996, those under the age of 20 accounted for 44% of those identifying themselves as Aboriginal, and 33% of people in visible minority groups, compared with just 10% of the total immigrant population living in Canada.

<sup>1</sup> This profile provides descriptive socio-demographic and criminal justice characteristics associated with children and youth. It does not however, account for the possibility that some additional factors, such as sex, disability status, visible minority status and low income status may also be correlated with age. For more information on these additional factors, please refer to the other profiles in this series.

<sup>2</sup> Data for the socio-demographic section of the children and youth profile are drawn from Statistics Canada's Census of Canada and the Labour Force Survey.

## Acknowledgements

The invaluable assistance of a number of people responsible for the preparation of these profiles is gratefully acknowledged, in particular, from Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division: Colin Lindsay, Josée Normand, Marcia Almey, and Mario Lisciotto.

From the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics: Jodi-Anne Massicotte, David Gullickson, Tina Hotton, Stacie Ogg and Eileen Cook.

### **Language capabilities**

Almost all children and youth in Canada can speak at least one official language. In fact, in 1996, 99% of all those under the age of 20 could speak either English or French or both. That year, 67% could conduct a conversation in English only, while 18% could speak only French. At the same time, 13% were bilingual, while just over 1% could speak neither English nor French.

### **Family status**

The large majority of the population under the age of 20 lives at home with their families. In 1996, over 90% of all children and youth lived with their families. In fact, virtually all children under the age of 15 live in a family setting. That year, 97% of all those under the age of 15 lived with their immediate family.<sup>3</sup> At the same time, 3% of children lived with private households with people they were not related to.

Most children in families live with in a household with both parents. In 1996, 84% of all children under the age of 15 living in families lived in a two-parent family — 73% lived with a married couple, while 10% lived with common-law parents. Still, a growing number of children in families live with just one parent, in most cases a lone female parent. That year, 14% of all children under age 15 in families lived with a lone parent, double the figure in 1971. In addition, almost 90% of these children lived with a single mother.

In addition, a large proportion of youths still lives with their immediate family. In 1996, 92% of those aged 15-19 lived at home with at least one parent. At the same time, though, 2% of people aged 15-19 were heading their own household, either as a spouse, common-law partner, or lone parent and 1% lived alone.

The birth rate among women aged 15-19 is at historically low levels. In 1997, there were 20 births per 1,000 females in this age range,

half the figure in the early 1970s and a third that in the early 1960s.

### **School attendance**

The vast majority of children and youth attend school. In 1997-1998, virtually all children aged 5-14 (98%) were enrolled in some form of formal educational program. In addition, among 15-19-year-olds in 1996, 82% were attending school either full-time or part-time.

In contrast, few youth can be classified as dropouts. Indeed, as of 1996, only 17% of those aged 15-19 who had not completed high school were not attending some type of educational institution. Among youth, males are slightly more likely than females to be dropouts. That year, 17% of males aged 15-19 who had not completed high school were not enrolled in any educational program, compared with 16% of their female counterparts.

The majority of the population aged 15-19 is in school on either a full- or part-time basis in all provinces, with those in Quebec the most likely to be in school. In 1996, 86% of Quebec residents aged 15-19 were in full- or part-time studies, as were 84% of those in Nova Scotia and Ontario, 80% in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, and 79% in New Brunswick. In contrast, the figures in the Western provinces were somewhat lower; they ranged from 78% in British Columbia to 75% in Manitoba.

### **Few youth employed**

With most youth currently in school on a full-time basis, only a minority are part of the paid work force. In 1999, just over 40% of people aged 15-19 had jobs. In addition, the majority of 15-19-year-olds who were employed that year — 71% — worked part-time.

Youth in Manitoba and Alberta are the most likely to be employed. In fact, Manitoba, where 51% of youth had jobs in 1999, was the only province in which more than half of those in this age group were part of the paid work force, while

Alberta, where just under half were employed, was right behind. In contrast, the figure in the remaining provinces ranged from 47% in each of Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan to just 22% in Newfoundland.

Most youth who are employed work in the service sector of the economy. In fact, in 1999, 85% of all people aged 15-19 participating in the paid work force were employed in service jobs; this compared with 74% of the overall labour force. That year, 15-19-year-olds, who made up 6% of the total employed workforce, represented 7% of all those employed in service jobs.

### **Unemployment rates high**

Young labour force participants have the highest unemployment rates in Canada. Indeed, in 1999, 18% of labour force participants aged 15-19 were officially unemployed, that is, they did not have a job, but were looking for one. This was more than double the national unemployment rate of 8%.

Among youth, males are somewhat more likely to be unemployed than females. In 1999, 20% of male labour force participants aged 15-19 were officially unemployed, versus 17% of their female counterparts.

Across the country, youth in Newfoundland have the highest unemployment rate, while those in Saskatchewan and Manitoba are the least likely to experience unemployment. In 1999, 29% of all Newfoundlanders aged 15-19 were unemployed, compared with 13% of those in Saskatchewan and 14% of those in Manitoba. In the remaining provinces, the figure ranged from 21% in each of Nova Scotia and Quebec to 16% in Alberta.

<sup>3</sup> An immediate family is a nuclear family, defined as husband and wife (in two-parent families), or one parent, and child(ren) living at home.



### **Low incomes<sup>4</sup>**

Many children and youth in Canada live in low-income situations. In 1995, over 1.7 million children and youth, 23% of the total population under the age of 20, lived in a low-income situation. Children and youth, in fact, are more likely to be classified as living in a low-income situation than older Canadians. That year, while 23% of children and youth were classified as being part of the low-income population, the figures were 19% for seniors and less than 19% among other adults.

Children and youth in Newfoundland are more likely to live with low incomes than children in other provinces. In 1995, 27% of those under the age of 20 in Newfoundland lived in low-income situations, whereas this was the case with 21% of those in Alberta and Ontario, and just 19% of those in Prince Edward Island.

## **Children and Youth and the Criminal Justice System**

### **Youths more likely to be victims of crime than adults**

According to the 1999 General Social Survey (GSS) (see Box 1) conducted by Statistics Canada, 40% of youth in Canada were victims of at least one crime<sup>5</sup> in the previous year. Youth 15-19 years of age had higher rates of both violent crime (which includes sexual assault, assault and robbery) and personal theft than did older Canadians. This was true for both males and females living in Canada.

### **Female youth experience more violent crime than male youth**

According to the GSS, female youth reported 479,000 and male youth reported 446,000 personal victimization incidents in 1999 (see Box 2). Approximately 280,000 of the incidents experienced by females were violent, compared to 261,000 of those committed against male youth. From this figure, it is estimated that 280 per

### **Box 1:**

#### **Data Sources for children and youth as victims of crime**

The reader is cautioned that the age categories for youth using the two data sources in the criminal justice section of the report differ.

**Victimization data** - Statistics Canada, as part of the General Social Survey Program, conducts a survey on criminal victimization every 5 years. The most recent survey was conducted in 1999, and involved telephone interviews with approximately 26,000 people, aged 15 and older, living in the 10 Canadian provinces. Analysis of the youth population with these data uses the age category of 15-19. Victimization of those under the age of 15 was not measured through this survey.

It is important to note that the GSS data are estimates. They are based on information collected from a sample of the population and are therefore subject to sampling error. The GSS analysis uses the coefficient of variation (CV) as a measure of the sampling error. Any estimate with a CV of more than 33.3% is considered unreliable and is not published. When the CV of the estimate is between 16.6% and 33.3%, the symbol '+' is used. These estimates should be used with caution.

**Police-reported data** - Police reported violence against youth includes all incidents where the victim is between the ages of 12 and 17 that come to the attention of the police. Police-reported violence against children includes all incidents where the victim is under the age of 12 that come to the attention of the police. The data are taken from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, based on a non-representative sample of 164 police services representing 46% of the national volume of crime in 1999.

1,000 female youths and 248 per 1,000 male youths were victims of violent crime during the one-year reference period.

The higher rates of violent crime victimization among female youth can be attributed to their greater risk of sexual assault. Although male youth reported slightly higher rates of assault than female youth (162 per 1,000 compared to 142 per 1,000 respectively), females had higher rates of sexual assault. While the rate of sexual assault for male youths was too low to be released, approximately 111 per 1,000 female youth reported being sexually assaulted.

### **Youth are over-represented among crime victims**

As presented in Figure 1, it is clear that Canadian youth experience a disproportionate amount of criminal victimization. Risk of victimization clearly decreases with age, and both male and female youth experience more personal crime than persons in any other age category.

Police-reported data show similar trends. In 1999, youth between the ages of 12 and 17 made up 8% of the Canadian population and they

<sup>4</sup> Families or individuals fall below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs if they spend, on average, at least 20 percentage points more of their pre-tax income than the Canadian average on food, shelter, and clothing. Using 1992 as the base year, families and individuals with incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs usually spend more than 55% of their income on these items and are considered to be in straitened circumstances. The number of people in the family and the size of the urban or rural area where the family resides are also taken into consideration. Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs, however, are not official poverty lines. They have no officially recognised status as such, nor does Statistics Canada promote their use as poverty lines.

<sup>5</sup> This section includes personal and household victimization as well as incidents of spousal violence that occurred in the 12 months preceding the survey.

## Box 2: Offence types

The 1999 GSS measured the incidence of personal and household victimization looking at eight offence types, based on the *Criminal Code* definitions for these crimes. Detailed analysis of the youth population only takes into account the four personal offences since for personal crimes, it is an individual who is victimized. For household crimes, it is all members of the household who are victimized. Rates of personal offences are calculated per 1,000 persons aged 15 and older.

Crime category	Offence	Description
Personal crimes	Violent crimes	
	Sexual assault	Forced sexual activity, an attempt at forced sexual activity, or unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing or fondling.
	Robbery	Theft or attempted theft in which the perpetrator had a weapon or there was violence or the threat of violence against the victim.
	Assault	An attack (victim hit, slapped, grabbed, knocked down, or beaten), a face-to-face threat of physical harm, or an incident with a weapon present.
	Theft of personal property	Theft or attempted theft of personal property such as money, credit cards, clothing, jewellery, a purse or a wallet. (Unlike robbery, the perpetrator does not confront the victim.)

## Box 3: Police-reported violence against children under 12

Children under 12 years of age made up 15% of the Canadian population in 1999 and were the victims in 7% of all violent offences reported to a sample of police services in Canada. Children represented 28% of all sexual assault victims and 11% of all physical assault victims.

According to police-reported statistics, four in five child victims under the age of 12 (80%) were assaulted by someone they knew. Acquaintances were suspected in 42% of both assaults and sexual assaults against children reported to police in 1999. Family members were in turn suspected in 42% of sexual assaults and 36% of physical assaults, while strangers were suspected in 15% of assaults and 11% of sexual assaults against children under 12 years old.

The proportion of child victims who were assaulted by family members was higher among girls (44%) than boys (33%). However, the proportion was greater for boys assaulted by acquaintances (46%) compared to girls (38%). In 1999, police-reported statistics demonstrated that most family-related child sexual assault victims were girls (76%); however, most victims of physical assaults within the family were boys (59%).

In cases of family violence (assaults and sexual assaults) against children, parents were accused most often. Parents represented 80% of family members accused of physically assaulting and 41% of those accused of sexually assaulting children in 1999. Siblings accounted for 11% and 31%, respectively, and extended family members for 9% and 28%, respectively.

were the victims in 16% of all police-reported violent offences. Youth represented one-third of all sexual assault victims (31%) and 15% of all physical assault victims reported to the police.

### **Reporting victimization incidents to police low among youth**

As the age of the victim increases, so does the likelihood that a crime incident will be reported to the police. The police were less likely

to become aware of crimes perpetrated against teenagers than against victims in any other age category.

According to the 1999 GSS, police did not become aware of 77% of personal crimes committed against Canadian youth aged 15-19 (see Table 3). Interestingly, in the majority of cases reported to the police (53%) someone other than the victim contacted the police. There was no difference in the likelihood of reporting to the police by the sex of the victim, but rates of reporting did vary by crime type. Police were least likely to become aware of incidents of personal theft and sexual assault committed against Canadian youth, with approximately 82% of these incidents going unreported.

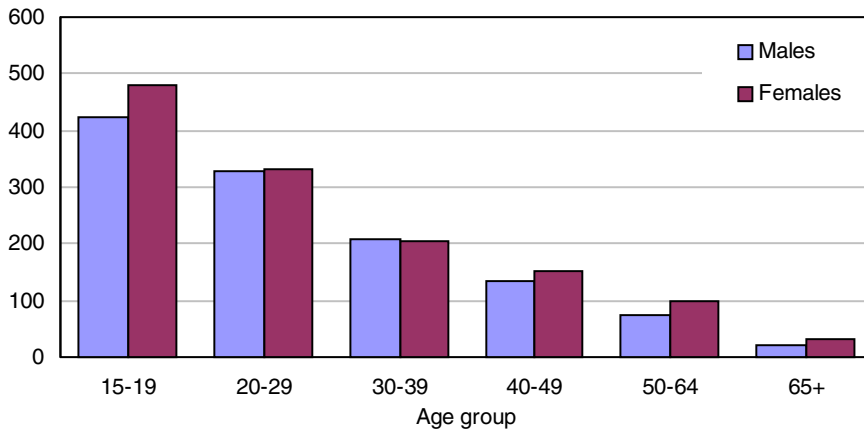
Among youth victims who did not have police contact, the main reasons provided were that the incident was not important enough to the respondent (35%) or that it was dealt with another way (17%).

For those youth that had contact with the police, in 58% of incidents they indicated that they were satisfied with the actions taken by police.

Figure 1

**Male and female youths experience more personal victimization<sup>1</sup> than older age groups**

Rate per 1,000 population



<sup>1</sup> Includes sexual assault, assault, robbery and theft of personal property and incidents of spousal physical and sexual assault

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

**Profile of violent crime incidents<sup>6</sup>**

According to the GSS, youths were injured in approximately 25% of violent crime incidents, compared to 16% incidents of violent crime involving victims over the age of 20.

A single offender perpetrated most violent crimes against youth, however a sizeable one-quarter of incidents involved two or more offenders. Weapons were used in 18% of violent incidents committed against youths, which was a similar proportion to the number of incidents involving weapons committed against older victims. Furthermore, in approximately 42% of violent incidents, the offender had been using alcohol around the time of the incident.

**Female youth most often victimized in or around a private residence**

Violent crimes committed against teenagers most often occur around commercial places or public institutions (37%), inside or around a private residence (31%), or on the street or other public place (32%). Male youth were most likely to be victimized around commercial places (46%) or public institutions (41%) while females

**Box 4: Sexual Assault**

According to the 1999 GSS, teenaged females were more likely to report being sexually assaulted than were women in any other age category. There were 111 incidents of sexual assault per 1,000 female youth population in the past 12 months as compared with 75 incidents per 1,000 females aged 20-29, 33 per 1,000 females aged 30-39, and 10 per 1,000 females 40 years of age and older.

were most likely to be victimized in or around a private residence (50% of incidents).

It is noteworthy that 20% of all violent crimes committed against youths occurred at school or on school grounds.

**Perpetrators of crimes against youth<sup>7</sup>**

According to the GSS, males were perpetrators in the vast majority of violent incidents (81%) committed against youth. Youths were most likely to be victimized by someone in their age group or slightly older. Perpetrators were between the

ages of 12 and 17 in approximately 35% of incidents, between 18 and 24 in 50% of incidents, and over 25 in 15%<sup>†</sup> of incidents.

Youth victims reported that they knew their perpetrator in the majority of violent incidents. The perpetrator was an ex-boyfriend or girlfriend, friend or other acquaintance in 53% of incidents, a stranger or someone known only by sight in 39% of incidents, and a family member in 9% of incidents. Male youth were most likely to be victimized by strangers (58% of incidents) while female youth tended to be victimized most often by an ex-boyfriend, friend or other acquaintance (63% of incidents).

**Family violence**

Within families, parents were most often the abusers. According to police-reported data for 1999<sup>8</sup>, among family assaults parents were the perpetrators in 56% of physical assaults against youths and 43% of sexual assaults against youth victims 12 to 17 years of age (see Figure 2). Siblings were responsible for approximately 25% of physical and 26% of sexual assaults in the family that were perpetrated against youth. Extended family members<sup>9</sup> committed 8% of physical, and 28% of sexual assaults against youth.

<sup>6</sup> This section excludes incidents of spousal abuse because information on each incident is not available.

<sup>†</sup> Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

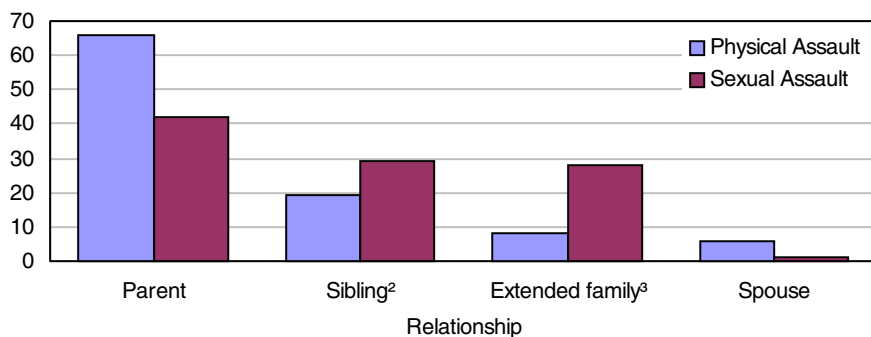
<sup>7</sup> Based on incidents with a single perpetrator.

<sup>8</sup> Police reported violence against youth includes all incidents where the victim is between the ages of 12 and 17 that come to the attention of the police. The data is taken from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey, based on a non-representative sample of 164 police services representing 46% of the national volume of crime in 1999.

<sup>9</sup> Extended family members include all others related by blood, marriage, adoption or foster care.



Figure 2  
**Parents most frequently accused in assaults against children and youth committed by family members<sup>1</sup>**



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup> Data are not nationally representative. Data are based on a sample of 164 police departments, representing 46% of the national volume of crime in 1999. Includes victims under the age of 18 years where sex of the victim is known.

<sup>2</sup> Sibling includes natural, step, half, foster or adopted siblings.

<sup>3</sup> Extended family includes others related by blood, marriage, adoption or foster care.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) survey.

In assaults involving parents, fathers were accused in nearly all sexual assault incidents (98%), and a large majority (71%) of physical assault incidents.

### **Female youth primary victims of family assaults**

Of all family related incidents in 1999, 88% of sexual assault victims and 62% of assault victims between the age of 12 and 17 were female. The majority of youth that were physically assaulted by strangers were males (75%). Refer to Box 3 for family assaults committed against children under the age of 12.

### **Homicides against youth and children**

There were 22 homicides against youth between the ages of 12 and 17 in 1999. This represented 4% of all homicides in Canada. The homicide rate for youth has remained relatively constant, fluctuating between 0.9 and 1.8 homicides per 100,000 population aged 12-17 between 1980 and 1999.

In 1999, family members were the most likely perpetrators of homicides against victims aged 12-17 (43% of incidents with a chargeable suspect). Parents were responsible for the vast majority of these (67%).

There were 36 homicides against children under the age of 12 in 1999. This represented 7% of all homicides in Canada. The homicide rate for children has also remained relatively constant, fluctuating between 0.8 and 1.7 homicides per 100,000 population under 12 years between 1980 and 1999.

As with youth, in 1999, family members were responsible for the majority of all homicides against victims under 12 years of age (79% of incidents with a chargeable suspect). A parent or step-parent was the family member responsible for all of these incidents in 1999.

### **Feelings of safety from crime**

According to the 1999 GSS, regardless of their age and sex, the majority of the population (approximately 91%) reported being satisfied with their overall safety from crime. Despite the fact that youth experienced a disproportionate amount of criminal victimization, they were somewhat more likely than older respondents to say they felt satisfied with their personal safety (see Table 4).

The GSS also asked respondents about their levels of fear while engaging in certain specific activities. The analysis, therefore, is

based only on the responses of those people who indicated that they did engage in these activities.

When asked about feelings of safety while walking alone, using public transportation alone and staying home alone at night, youths reported similar levels of concern as older respondents. Consistent with the previous literature,<sup>10</sup> females were much less likely to report feeling safe when engaging in these activities in both the youth and older populations. For example, approximately 29% of female youth reported being worried when home alone at night, compared to 9% of males in the same age group.

Overall, youth and their older counterparts reported similar perceptions of the justice system (see Table 5). Youth were equally likely to report satisfaction with their local police as the overall population. They were not, however, quite as critical of the Canadian courts, prison and parole system, as were older age groups.

### **Youth as offenders**

Almost 100,000 youths aged 12 to 17 were charged with *Criminal Code* offences in 1999, down from 107,000 in 1998 (see Table 6). Youths accounted for 21% of those charged with *Criminal Code* offences in 1999 while representing 8% of the Canadian population.

Youths aged 12 to 17 years were charged with *Criminal Code* offences at a rate of 407 per 10,000 youths in 1999, compared to 626 in 1991 and 517 in 1989. The overall rate of youths charged was 21% lower than a decade earlier. In contrast, the overall rate of adults charged in 1999 was 22% lower than in 1989.

The youth crime rate has dropped steadily since 1991, including a 7% decrease in 1999. This decrease has been driven mainly by a decline in property crimes. The rate of youths charged with property crime was 42% lower in 1999 than in 1989 (198 versus 340 charges per 10,000

<sup>10</sup> See Besserer and Trainor (2000)

youths) (see Figure 3). In comparison, the adult property crime rate fell by 35% during this period.

About half (49%) of youths charged in 1999 were accused of committing property offences (such as theft, break and enter), 30% with "other" offences that were non-violent/non-property related (such as mischief, offences against the administration of justice), and 21% with violent offences (primarily common assault). In comparison, 35% of adults charged were accused of property offences, 35% with other offences, and 30% with violent crimes.

### Youth violent crime has declined recently

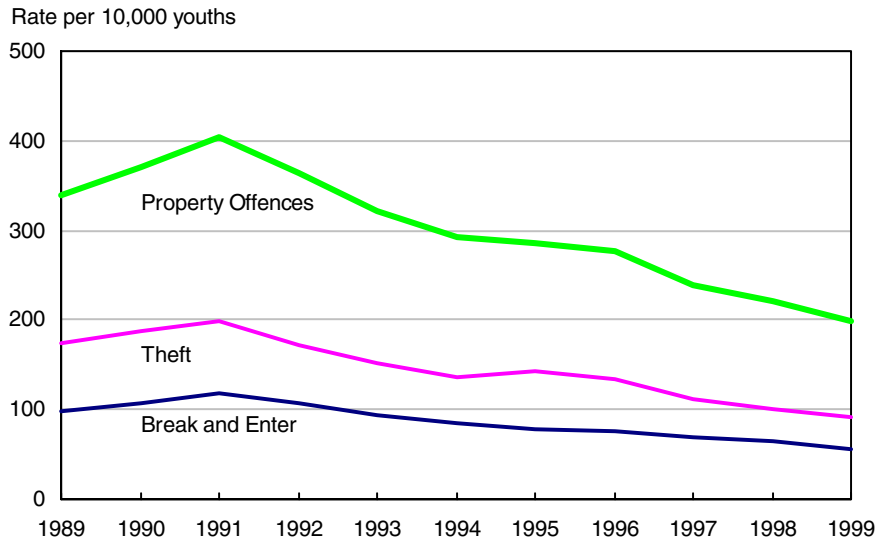
In 1999, violent crimes accounted for one in five youths charged with a *Criminal Code* offence. The rate of youths charged with violent crimes began to fall only recently, with a 2% drop in 1997, a 1% decrease in 1998, and a 5% drop in 1999. Despite these declines, the 1999 youth violent crime rate remained 41% higher than it was a decade earlier (86 versus 61 charges per 10,000 youths) (see Figure 4). For adults, the violent crime rate was 4% lower than a decade earlier.

For common assault, the most frequent violent offence, the youth crime rate rose by 31% between 1989 and 1999, from 29 to 42 youth charged per 10,000 population. During this same period, the adult crime rate for common assault increased by 8%.

In 1999, 45 youths were charged with homicide, representing 10% of all persons charged with this crime. On average, 51 youths per year were charged with homicide over the period from 1989 to 1999. The minority of youth charged are female. In 1998, females accounted for 20% of youth charged with homicide, roughly double the proportion for adults (9%).

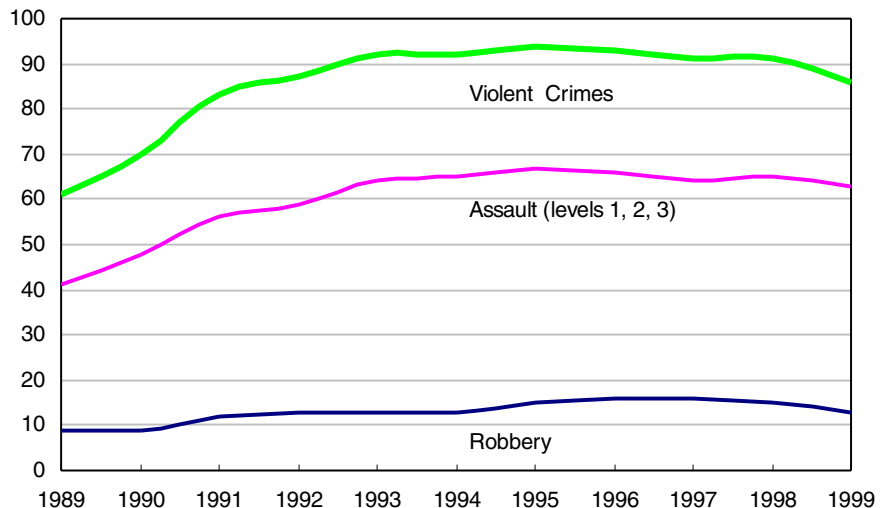
Two-thirds of female youths charged with a violent crime in 1999 were charged with common assault, compared to just under half (46%)

Figure 3  
Youth crime rate has decreased steadily since 1991



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

Figure 4  
Youth violent crime has risen over the past decade, but stabilized since 1993



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

of male youths. Male youths tend to be involved in more serious violent crimes such as robbery and major assault than female youths.

### Youth crime varies across Canada

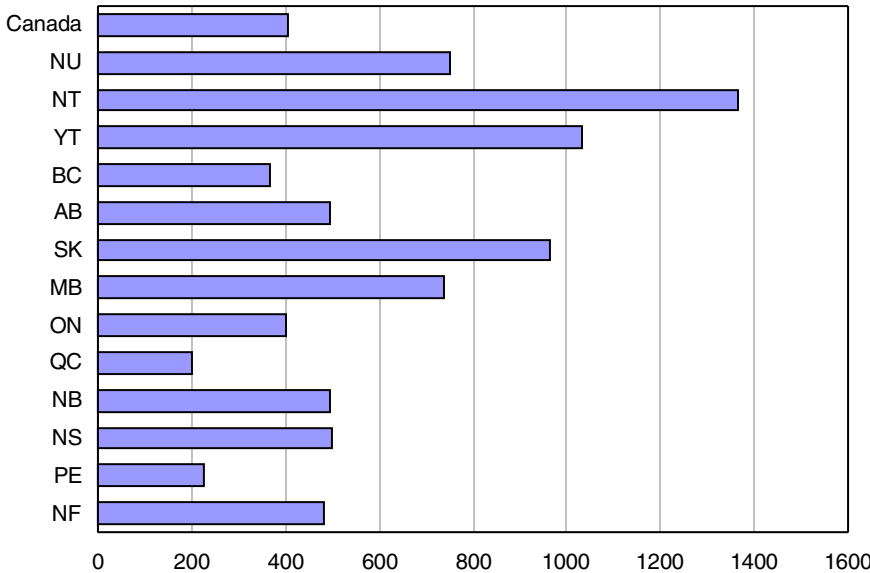
For both adults and youths, there is considerable regional variation in crime rates across Canada. In 1999, the national youth charge rate was 407 charges per 10,000

population. That same year the Yukon and the Northwest Territories reported the highest rates, at 1,032 youths charged per 10,000 population aged 12 to 17 in Yukon and 1,364 in the Northwest Territories. Saskatchewan, at 966 youths charged per 10,000 population, and Manitoba, at 738 youths charged, reported the highest charge rates among the provinces. Youth charge rates were lowest

Figure 5

**Youth crime varies across Canada**

Rate per 10,000 youths

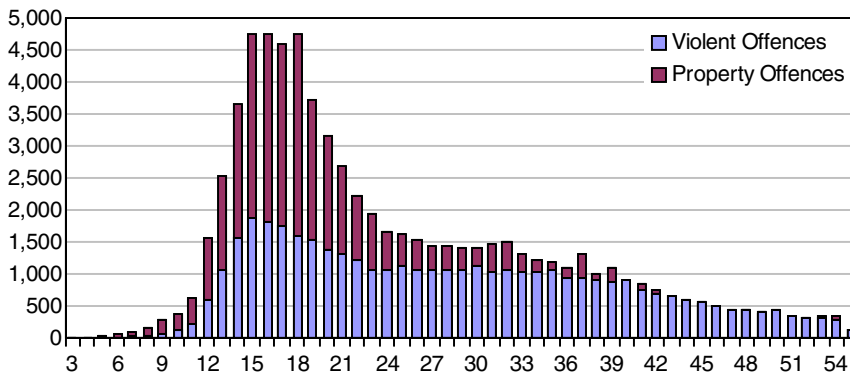


**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, 1999 Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Figure 6

**Younger youths less frequently accused of crime than older youths<sup>1</sup>, 1999**

Rate per 100,000 population



<sup>1</sup> Based on a non-representative sample of 164 police services representing 46% of the national volume of crime.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) Survey.

east of Ontario, except for Nova Scotia which had a higher than average rate (501) (see Figure 5).

**Younger youths less frequently accused of crimes than older youths**

In 1999, children and youth aged 12 to 14 made up one-half (49%)

of the population aged 12 to 17, but accounted for approximately one-third (32%) of those in this age range that were accused of a crime.

The age-specific rate at which young people are accused of crimes rose sharply between the ages of 12 to 14 before stabilizing

among those 15 to 17.<sup>11</sup> The age-specific accused rate among 12-year-olds was 2,373 accused per 100,000 population. This is about 55% of the rate among 13-year-olds, 36% of the rate among 14-year-olds, and one-quarter of the rate among those 15 to 17 (see Figure 6).

In 1999, 12-year-olds were accused of violent offences at a rate of 589 offences per 100,000 population, less than one-third of the rate among those aged 15. As well, common assault, the least serious form of assault, accounts for a larger portion of violent offences among younger accused (59% of violent offences among 12-year-olds versus 38% among 17-year-olds).

Younger youths were also accused of property offences at a much lower rate than older youths. Further, younger youths were involved in less serious types of property crime, such as theft under \$5,000 and mischief. For example, 57% of 12-year-olds accused of a property offence in 1999 were accused of theft under \$5,000. This proportion declined to 40% among those aged 17.

This trend also holds true for other types of offences (other Criminal Code, drug and other federal statute offences). A significant portion of the violations included under other offences, such as failure to appear, bail violation and breach of probation, stemmed from previous involvement with the justice system (with prior charges). Therefore, it is not unexpected that

<sup>11</sup> This refers to Criminal Code (violent, property and other), drug, and other federal statute offences. Data for this analysis are drawn from the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. Those accused of an offence includes persons who have been charged with an offence as well as those who have not been charged. Persons are not charged for a number of reasons, including the use of alternative measures, being below the minimum age (under 12 years old) and already being incarcerated for a serious crime.

older youths, who have had more time to become involved with the justice system, are more involved in other offences.

**Criminal activity of children under 12 usually involves property offences**

Although police cannot charge children under 12, they report suspected involvement in criminal activity to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey. In 1999, of all persons under 18 years of age suspected of a crime, 5% were under 12, with the majority (62%) being 10 and 11 year-old children.

In comparison to older youths, the under 12 age group is accused of a higher proportion of property crimes and a lower proportion of other offences. In 1999, 75% of suspected children under 12 years of age were suspected of committing property crimes, 22% were suspected of violent offences and 3% were suspected of other offences.

Minor theft and mischief accounted for 61% of all incidents involving children under 12 years of age in 1999. These children were proportionately more involved in incidents of mischief and arson than older youths and adults.

**Youth most often referred to alternative measures for property crime**

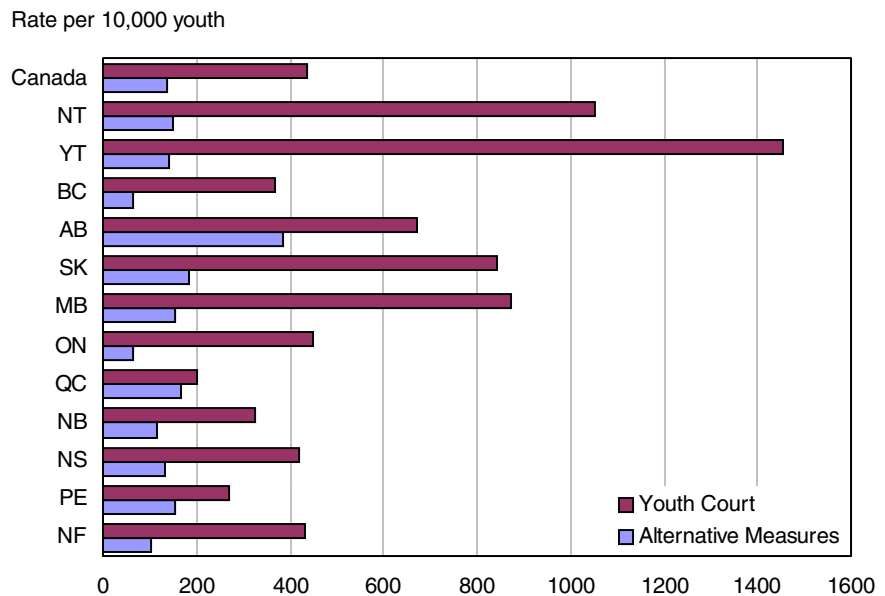
Alternative measures are formalized programs whereby young people who would otherwise proceed to court are dealt with through non-judicial, community-based alternatives. Typical programs include personal service to a victim; financial compensation to a victim; community service; educational sessions; personal or written apologies; and essays or presentations related to the offence. In 1998-99, there were 33,200 youth cases in alternative measures in Canada<sup>12</sup>. For every 10,000 youth in Canada in 1998-99, 135 participated in alternative measures. In comparison, 439 youth per 10,000 were charged with an offence in 1998, and 435 cases per 10,000 were brought to youth court in 1998-99.

Youth were most often referred to alternative measures for property-related crime. The most common offence was theft under \$5,000 (57%). The most frequent types of alternative measures administered to youth in Canada were community service (22%) and apologies (17%).

Alberta had the highest rate of participation in alternative measures among the provinces (384 per 10,000 youth). British Columbia (63) and Ontario (66) had the lowest participation rates (see Figure 7).

<sup>12</sup> See Engler and Crowe (2000)

Figure 7  
**Participation in alternative measures and youth court caseload, 1998-99, by jurisdiction**



Sources: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Alternative Measures Survey (1998-99) and the Youth Court Survey (1998-99).

**Box 5: Young offender dispositions**

There are two categories of sentences (or dispositions) under the *Young Offenders Act (YOA)*: community-based and custody-based.

Community-based dispositions can be served in the young person's community. They include sentences such as restitution, counselling, community service, fines and probation. Community service requires the young person to perform community service work in the form of a specified number of hours of work without pay for a recognized community group or organization. Under probation, a youth must abide by a set of conditions under the supervision of a probation officer for a maximum period of two years. At a minimum, a young person must keep the peace, be of good behaviour and appear in court when required to do so.

Youth may be temporarily held in remand custody prior to trial to ensure that they appear in court for trial or to protect the public. Custody dispositions require the young person convicted of an offence under the *YOA* to spend time in a designated correctional facility. There are two types of custody: secure or closed custody, where the young person is committed to a facility specially designated for the secure detention of young persons; and open custody, where the young person is committed to a community residential centre, group home, child care institution, forest or wilderness camp, or any other similar facility.



### **Most youth court sentences are served in the community<sup>13</sup>**

Of the 107,000 cases heard in youth court in 1998-99, two-thirds resulted in a conviction. Of these, half (48%) received probation as the most serious sentence, and over one-third (35%) received custody (open and closed). A further 7% received community service, and 6% received fines as their most serious sentence.

Repeat offenders (defined as youths with at least one prior conviction) were involved in about four out of every ten cases with convictions (42%). Further, persistent offenders (defined as offenders with at least three prior convictions) accounted for 12% of convictions.

### **Admissions to probation and custody<sup>14</sup>**

In 1998-99, there were 77,959 admissions to youth probation or custody (see Table 7)<sup>15</sup> in Canada. The total number of admissions to custody or probation declined 6%, from 1997-98 to 1998-99.<sup>16</sup>

As a proportion of total admissions, probation accounted for close to one-half (48%), followed by remand (31%), open custody (11%) and secure custody (10%). Since 1997-98, these proportions have remained relatively unchanged.

In 1998-99, the total custody admission rate was 164 custody admissions per 10,000 youth in the population (see Table 8). This represents a decrease of 8% since 1997-98.<sup>17</sup>

Similar to the findings reported in 1997-98, the highest 1998-99 rates of custody admissions occurred in the Yukon (568 per 10,000 youth) and Northwest Territories (495 per 10,000). Among provinces, Manitoba (239 per 10,000) and Ontario (232 per 10,000) had the highest rates while Prince Edward Island (70 per 10,000 youth) and Quebec (87 per 10,000 youth) had the lowest.

Since 1997-98, custody admission rates declined in most jurisdictions,

with the exception of Newfoundland (no change), the Northwest Territories (+1%), Nova Scotia and Quebec (both +6%). The most substantial decreases were reported for Prince Edward Island (-38%) and Yukon (-31%).<sup>18</sup>

Approximately 43% of all admissions to sentenced custody were for property offences (e.g., breaking and entering, theft), while 22% were for violent offences (e.g., assault, robbery, sexual assault).

### **Selected findings from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth**

The National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) is a long-term survey designed to measure child development and well being from birth until early adulthood.<sup>19</sup> Data from the NLSCY show that on the whole, children in Canada are growing up healthy, emotionally well balanced, and relatively well educated. Still, a significant proportion of children live in difficult family circumstances and face other disadvantages that put their development at risk. NLSCY findings on risk-taking/delinquent behaviours and victimization among children are highlighted below.

### **Children engage in a variety of risk-taking behaviours**

Children aged 12-13 engage in a variety of risk-taking behaviours. In 1996, over one-half of children aged 12-13 (56%) reported staying out later than permitted in the previous 12 months. The next most common behaviour was having been in a physical fight (35%), followed by having threatened to beat someone (22%). Theft (whether from a parent, a store or school) and vandalism were less common, with fewer than one in five children reporting these behaviours. Finally, fewer than one in ten children aged 12-13 reported carrying a knife (8%), fighting causing injuries (6%), or buying drugs for their own use (5%) in the previous 12 months (see Figure 8).

### **Children who engage in risk-taking behaviours are more likely to have contact with the police**

Children who engaged in risk-taking behaviours were more likely to have contact with the police. In 1996, 6% of children aged 12-13 reported that they had contact with the police in the previous year. In contrast, children who reported having engaged in risk-taking behaviours such as physical fights causing injury, damaging property, stealing from a store or carrying a knife were 5 to 7 times more likely to have contact with police. Similarly, those who threatened to beat someone, or stole from school or a parent were 2 to 4 times more likely to have contact (see Figure 9).

### **Peers influence risk-taking behaviours**

Peers influence children's risk-taking behaviours. In 1996, about one adolescent (aged 12-13) in seven reported belonging to a group that "did risky things". Children who reported being part of such a group were 6 times more

<sup>13</sup> See Carrière (2000)

<sup>14</sup> See Moldon and Kukec (2000)

<sup>15</sup> The number of admissions excludes probation admissions in Manitoba and remand admissions in Saskatchewan.

<sup>16</sup> The 1997-98 and 1998-99 figures exclude all Saskatchewan admissions, as well as Manitoba probation admissions which were not reported in 1997-98 or 1998-99.

<sup>17</sup> Saskatchewan was unable to report admissions in 1997-98. Therefore, for comparison purposes, the 1998-99 national rate was calculated at 167 custody admissions per 10,000 youth excluding Saskatchewan.

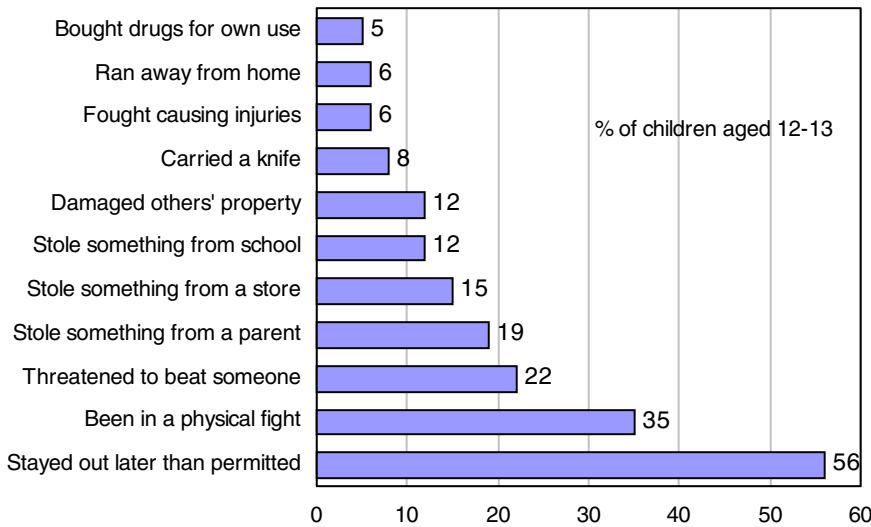
<sup>18</sup> Note that the larger percentage differences reported here could be a reflection of smaller counts of admissions and youth population in these two jurisdictions.

<sup>19</sup> A sample of approximately 22,000 children aged 0-10 years were first surveyed in 1994-95 and will be surveyed every 2 years until the oldest age cohort is 20. The survey gathers a broad range of information on all aspects of a child's development. Respondents include the child, the child's parent, the child's teacher, and the principal of the child's school.



Figure 8

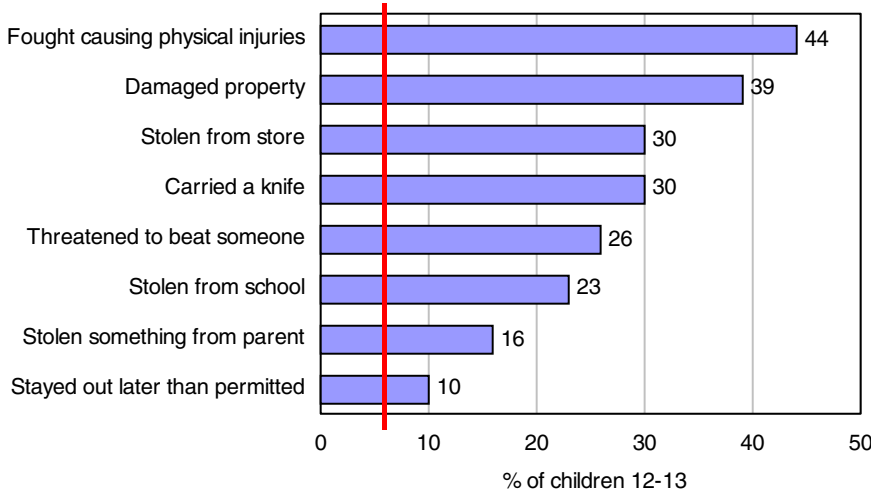
**Children at age 12-13 engage in a variety of risk-taking behaviours**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1996 National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, cycle 2.

Figure 9

**Children who engaged in risk-taking behaviours had greater contact with the police<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Approximately 6% of all children aged 12-13 had contact with the police

**Source:** Statistics Canada, National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Cycle 2.

likely to report a conduct disorder (e.g., anxiety, depression or unhappiness), 7 times more likely to skip school, and 9 times more likely to have stolen something from a parent, store or school three times or more in the last 12 months (see Figure 10).

**Behavioural problems increase when parents use ineffective parenting styles**

Parents who used poor parenting practices were significantly more likely to have children with behaviour problems than parents who used these approaches infrequently.<sup>20</sup>

Sixty-three percent of children whose parents very often used an ineffective technique in 1996 exhibited a conduct disorder (e.g., fighting, bullying or threatening), compared with 4% of children whose parents only rarely practised this kind of parenting. When the effects of other family variables are held constant, the odds of children displaying delinquent behaviour was 36 times higher if their parents employed ineffective disciplining techniques very often rather than rarely (see Figure 11).

**Problem behaviours are more frequent for children who have witnessed violence in the home**

Children who have witnessed violence in the home have higher rates of problem behaviours than children who have never witnessed violence. In 1996, 8% percent of children aged 4-11 years were reported by a parent to have witnessed at least some violence in the home (e.g., adults or teenagers physically fighting, hitting or otherwise trying to hurt others). Children who witnessed violence in the home were twice as likely as children who never witnessed violence to exhibit a conduct disorder-physical aggression (e.g., fighting, bullying or threatening) (24% versus 12%). They were also 1.8 times more likely to be involved in property offences (e.g., destroying property, vandalizing or stealing) (16% versus 9%), and 1.6 times more likely to have an

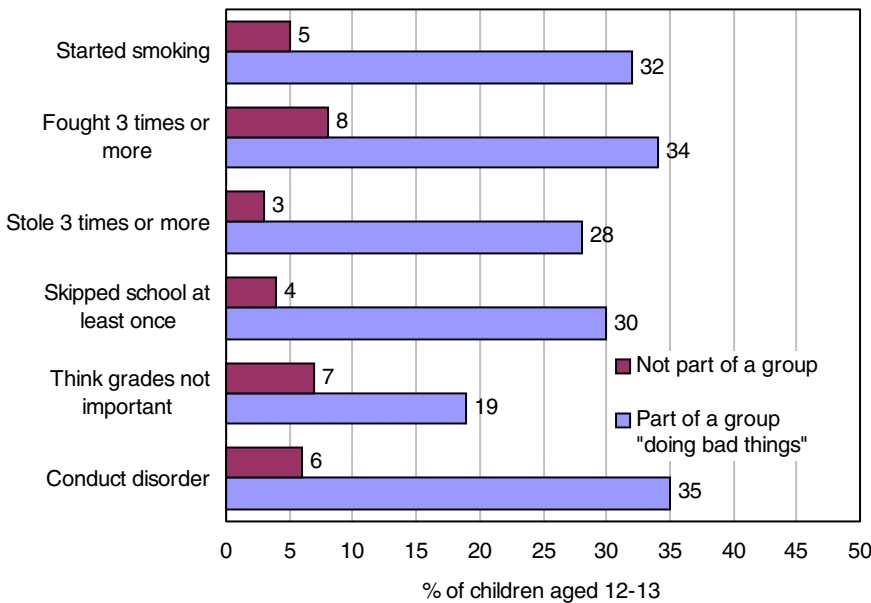
<sup>20</sup> The NLSCY measured 4 styles of parenting: **ineffective/hostile** (e.g. how often parents tell children that they are bad or not as good as others, get angry when punishing children); **punitive/aversive** (e.g. how often parents raise their voice or yell at children, use physical punishment with children); **consistent** (e.g. proportion of time a parent makes sure child follows a command or order, enforces a punishment after warning child); **positive interaction** (e.g. how often parents laugh with children, play sports, hobbies and/or games together).

emotional disorder (e.g., feelings of anxiety, depression or fear) or exhibit indirect aggression (e.g.,

non-physical forms of aggression such as rallying friends against someone) (16% versus 10%).

Figure 10

**Peer influence on risk-taking behaviour**

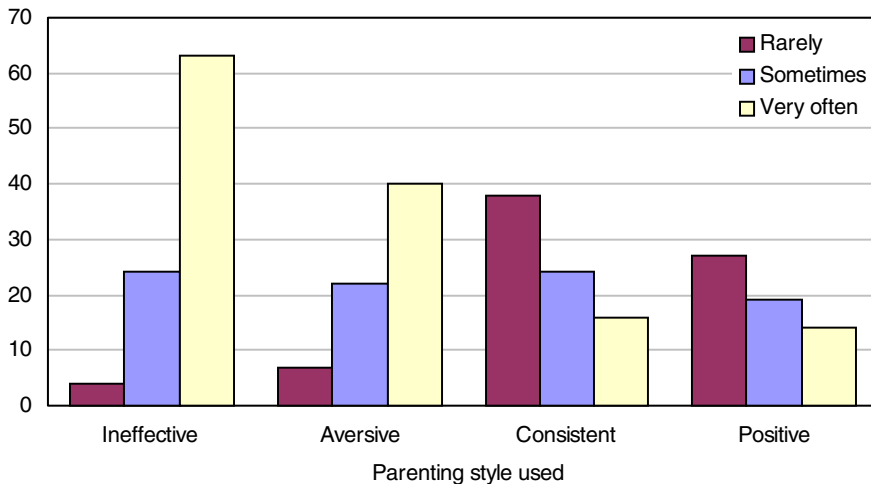


**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1996 National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Cycle 2.

Figure 11

**Behavioural problems increase when parents use ineffective parenting styles**

% of children aged 8-11 exhibiting conduct disorder



**Source:** Statistics Canada, 1994 and 1996 National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, Cycles 1 & 2.

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Table 1

**Selected characteristics of children and youth, by age group**

	Children aged					
	Under 5	5-9	10-14	Total aged 14 and under	15-19	Total aged 0-19
<b>Population, 2000 (000s)</b>						
Male	911.0	1,048.2	1,051.5	3,010.8	1,064.0	4,074.8
Female	866.3	996.2	997.6	2,860.1	1,007.6	3,867.7
Total	1,777.3	2,044.4	2,049.1	5,870.9	2,071.6	7,942.5
<b>As % of population in: (1996)</b>						
CMA's	6.7	6.6	6.4	19.8	6.4	26.2
Other urban areas	6.6	7.0	7.2	20.9	7.2	28.0
Rural areas	6.8	7.8	8.2	22.9	7.6	30.4
<b>As % of the immigrant population, 1996</b>						
	0.6	2.0	3.2	5.8	3.9	9.7
<b>As % of the visible minority population, 1996</b>						
	8.7	7.8	7.9	24.3	8.2	32.5
<b>As % of the Aboriginal population, 1996</b>						
	12.4	11.9	10.7	35.1	9.4	44.4
<b>Mother tongue, 1996<sup>1</sup></b>						
English	67.4	68.8	67.5	67.9	63.4	66.8
French	21.4	21.3	21.7	21.5	24.0	22.1
Other	11.0	9.9	10.8	10.6	12.6	11.1
<b>Language spoken at home, 1996<sup>1</sup></b>						
English	69.1	71.7	71.7	70.9	68.6	70.3
French	21.4	21.3	21.7	21.4	23.7	22.0
Other	9.4	7.0	6.7	7.7	7.7	7.7
<b>% living with family, 1996</b>						
	97.4	97.3	97.4	97.4	97.1	97.3
<b>Living arrangements, 1996:</b>						
% living in two-parent family	80.9	78.0	77.1	78.6	75.3	77.8
% living in lone-parent family	12.2	15.0	15.9	14.4	16.6	14.9
% living in other arrangement	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	8.1	7.2
<b>% aged 15-19 attending school, 1996:</b>						
Male	..	..	..	..	81.2	..
Female	..	..	..	..	82.9	..
<b>% living in low-income families, 1995</b>						
	26.0	23.6	20.7	23.4	20.8	22.8

<sup>1</sup> Includes single responses only.

.. Figures not available

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada; and Demography Division.

Table 2

**Selected characteristics of children and youth aged 0-19, by province and territory<sup>1</sup>**

	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Qc	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta	B.C.	Yuk.	Terr.	Nun.
<b>Population, 2000 (000s)</b>														
Male	4,074.8	68.8	19.4	120.8	96.5	919.1	1559.7	165.1	153.4	435.8	517.1	4.7	7.6	6.7
Female	3,867.7	66.1	18.4	114.5	91.3	876.9	1,477.9	156.7	146.1	412.3	489.6	4.3	7.2	6.3
Total	7,942.5	134.8	37.8	235.4	187.8	1,796.0	3,037.6	321.8	299.6	848.1	1,006.7	9.0	14.8	13.0
<b>As % of population in: (1996)</b>														
CMAs	26.2	27.1	..	25.3	26.7	25.3	26.7	26.6	29.8	28.2	24.4	..	..	..
Other urban areas	28.0	27.9	27.2	26.4	25.3	26.4	27.9	29.0	29.4	31.2	28.7	31.4	34.3	42.9
Rural areas	30.4	29.6	31.3	28.1	28.4	29.7	29.4	34.6	34.0	34.4	29.6	29.8	39.4	49.7
<b>As % of the immigrant population, 1996</b>														
	9.7	8.5	7.8	8.8	7.9	11.0	9.6	8.6	8.2	9.2	9.7	6.3	3.4	..
<b>As % of the visible minority population, 1996</b>														
	32.5	33.0	38.4	37.6	34.1	34.0	32.6	33.8	35.6	33.4	30.4	33.0	31.4	..
<b>As % of the Aboriginal population, 1996</b>														
	44.4	39.5	44.2	43.2	42.4	39.3	40.0	47.1	51.6	46.4	41.3	38.8	45.6	53.0
<b>Mother tongue, 1996<sup>2</sup></b>														
English	66.8	98.9	97.0	95.8	68.7	8.7	82.1	85.9	93.3	89.8	84.0	94.9	87.7	22.7
French	22.1	0.2	2.3	2.2	30.6	83.4	3.3	2.6	0.6	0.8	0.5	2.2	0.7	0.5
Other	11.1	0.9	0.8	2.0	0.7	7.8	14.5	11.4	6.1	9.4	15.4	2.9	11.6	76.7
<b>Language spoken at home, 1996<sup>2</sup></b>														
English	70.3	99.3	97.3	96.4	68.9	10.4	83.5	88.7	95.2	91.3	86.7	95.7	87.7	41.1
French	22.0	0.2	2.3	2.4	30.5	83.4	2.8	2.1	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.5	1.0	1.2
Other	7.7	0.5	0.4	1.2	0.6	6.1	13.7	9.2	4.2	8.1	12.9	2.8	11.3	57.7
<b>% living with family, 1996</b>														
	97.3	98.2	98.2	97.7	97.3	98.3	97.3	97.6	97.4	96.8	95.5	96.8	94.4	97.7
<b>Living arrangements, 1996:</b>														
% living in two-parent family	77.8	81.3	81.0	76.9	79.8	78.7	77.3	78.2	79.0	79.8	75.0	74.9	71.9	73.6
% living in lone-parent family	14.9	12.1	13.4	17.0	14.1	16.4	14.8	14.7	14.3	12.6	15.1	17.6	13.6	11.3
% living in other arrangement	7.2	6.6	5.6	6.2	6.2	4.9	7.9	7.1	6.7	7.6	9.9	7.4	14.6	15.0
<b>% living in low-income families, 1995</b>														
	22.8	26.6	18.5	23.4	22.4	24.8	21.4	24.7	23.0	21.4	22.7	..	..	..

<sup>1</sup> Nunavut was established April 1, 1999. While population estimates for this territory are available prior to 1991, for all other indicators, Nunavut is included in the Northwest Territories.

<sup>2</sup> Includes single responses only.

.. Figures not available

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada; and Demography Division.

Table 3

**Personal victimization incidents reported to the police by age group, 1999<sup>1</sup>**

Age Group	Total no. of incidents	Incidents reported to the police <sup>2</sup>		Incidents not reported to the police		Don't know/Not stated	
	(000s)	(000s)	%	(000s)	%	(000s)	%
15-19	891	180	20	684	77	--	--
20-29	1,169	366	31	751	64	53 <sup>†</sup>	5 <sup>†</sup>
30-39	775	283	37	467	60	--	--
40-49	536	231	43	284	53	--	--
50-64	353	138	39	187	53	--	--
65 and over	79	38 <sup>†</sup>	49 <sup>†</sup>	38 <sup>†</sup>	48 <sup>†</sup>	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Excludes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

<sup>2</sup> Includes incidents reported by the victim or by someone else.

-- Amount too small to be expressed

**Note:** <sup>†</sup> Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.

Table 4

**Feelings of safety from crime among youth and adult populations<sup>1</sup>, 1999**

	% of population	
	Youth population	Adult population
<b>While waiting for/using public transportation alone after dark, how do you feel about your safety from crime?</b>		
Not at all worried	54	54
Somewhat worried	41	38
Very worried	5	8
Don't know/Not stated	--	1 <sup>†</sup>
<b>How safe do you feel from crime when walking alone in your area after dark?</b>		
Very safe	39	44
Reasonably safe	48	45
Somewhat or very unsafe	13	11
Don't know/Not stated	--	--
<b>While alone in your home in the evening or at night, how do you feel about your safety from crime?</b>		
Not at all worried	81	79
Somewhat worried	17	18
Very worried	2 <sup>†</sup>	2
Don't know/Not stated	--	--
<b>In general, how do you feel about your safety from crime?</b>		
Very satisfied	49	44
Somewhat satisfied	45	47
Somewhat dissatisfied	3	4
Very dissatisfied	1 <sup>†</sup>	2
Don't know/Not stated	2 <sup>†</sup>	4

<sup>1</sup> Includes only respondents who engaged in these activities.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

**Note:** <sup>†</sup> Coefficient of variation between 16.6% and 33.3%.

Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.



Table 5

**Perceptions of the justice system among the youth population aged 15-19, 1999**

	Youth population 15-19									
	Total	Good job	Average job	Poor job	Don't know/ Not stated	Total	Good job	Average job	Poor job	Don't know/ Not stated
	(000s)					%				
<b>What kind of job are your local police doing at ...</b>										
Being approachable?	2,052	1,220	492	150	191	100	59	24	7	9
Ensuring the safety of citizens?	2,052	1,334	571	81	66	100	65	28	4	3
Enforcing the laws?	2,052	1,153	702	144	53	100	56	34	7	3
Supplying information on reducing crime?	2,052	1,052	635	234	131	100	51	31	11	6
Responding promptly to calls?	2,052	964	523	151	415	100	47	25	7	20
<b>What kind of job are criminal courts doing at ...</b>										
Ensuring a fair trial for the accused?	2,052	899	821	132	200	100	44	40	6	10
Determining the guilt of the accused?	2,052	647	962	206	238	100	32	47	10	12
Helping the victim?	2,052	705	859	241	247	100	34	42	12	12
Providing justice quickly?	2,052	474	1,001	349	227	100	23	49	17	11
<b>What kind of job is the prison system doing at ...</b>										
Supervising/controlling prisoners?	2,052	831	719	204	299	100	40	35	10	15
Helping prisoners become law-abiding?	2,052	584	830	285	353	100	28	40	14	17
<b>What kind of job is the parole system doing at ...</b>										
Releasing offenders who are not likely to re-offend?	2,052	613	845	345	250	100	30	41	17	12
Supervising offenders on parole?	2,052	676	806	281	289	100	33	39	14	14

*Note: Figures may not add to total due to rounding.*

*Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1999.*

Table 6

Youths charged with selected criminal code incidents, Canada, 1989-1999<sup>1</sup>

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

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

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

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures

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

Table 7

**Admissions to remand, secure and open custody and probation, 1998-99**

Jurisdiction	Total	Remand	Secure custody	Open custody	Probation
<b>Total reported</b>	<b>77,959</b>	<b>24,061</b>	<b>7,823</b>	<b>8,321</b>	<b>37,754</b>
Newfoundland	1,396	212	195	199	790
Prince Edward Island	163	35	31	19	78
Nova Scotia	2,446	343	62	362	1,679
New Brunswick	1,621	291	279	193	858
Quebec	13,058	2,447	1,299	1,160	8,152
Ontario <sup>1</sup>	37,152	13,626	3,564	3,839	16,123
Ontario MCSS	22,941	8,783	1,880	2,769	9,509
Ontario MSGCS	14,211	4,843	1,684	1,070	6,614
Manitoba	2,322	1,636	238	448	..
Saskatchewan	2,738	..	332	449	1,957
Alberta	7,940	2,851	999	703	3,387
British Columbia	7,971	2,393	660	824	4,094
Yukon	267	93	52	26	96
Northwest Territories	885	134	112	99	540

<sup>1</sup> Ontario is represented by two jurisdictions: The Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services (Ontario MCSS) is responsible for young offenders between the ages of 12 and 15 and The Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General and Correctional Service is responsible for young offenders between the ages of 16 and 17.

.. Figures not available

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

Table 8

**Youth custody admission rates, 1998-99**

	Youth population	Remand		Secure		Open		Total		% change from previous year
		#	Rate (per 10,000 youth)	#	Rate (per 10,000 youth)	#	Rate (per 10,000 youth)	#	Rate (per 10,000 youth)	
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,451,946</b>	<b>24,061</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>7,823</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>8,321</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>40,205</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>-8*</b>
Newfoundland	49,576	212	43	195	39	199	40	606	122	-
Prince Edward Island	12,102	35	29	31	26	19	16	85	70	-38
Nova Scotia	75,401	343	45	62	8	362	48	767	102	6
New Brunswick	61,812	291	47	279	45	193	31	763	123	-14
Quebec	562,937	2,447	43	1,299	23	1,160	21	4,906	87	6
Ontario	906,498	13,626	150	3,564	39	3,839	42	21,029	232	-10
Manitoba	97,334	1,636	168	238	24	448	46	2,322	239	-9
Saskatchewan	96,609	..	..	332	34	449	46	..	..	..
Alberta	261,015	2,851	109	999	38	703	27	4,553	174	-14
British Columbia	318,687	2,393	75	660	21	824	26	3,877	122	-11
Yukon	3,009	93	309	52	173	26	86	171	568	-31
Northwest Territories	6,963	134	192	112	161	99	142	345	495	1

<sup>1</sup> The total number of remand admissions and total number of custody admissions do not include Saskatchewan remand admissions.

\* In order to compare the 1997-98 and 1998-99 national rates, Saskatchewan was excluded (Saskatchewan did not report admissions in 1997-98). Excluding Saskatchewan, the 1998-99 national rate was calculated at 167 custody admissions per 10,000 youth.

.. Figures not available

- Nil or zero

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Youth Custody and Community Services Survey, and Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Annual Demographic Statistics, 1998. Demography Division.