



Crime and Victimization

2006

August,

CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION

Highlights

- The overall national crime rate dropped 5% in 2005 from 2004 to 7,761 per 100,000 population. Alberta's overall crime rate was 10,023 per 100,000 population (fourth highest of the provinces, but lowest of the western provinces) and the overall crime rate for the City of Edmonton was 13,000 per 100,000 population.
- Of the approximately 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents reported by police in Canada in 2005, 12% were violent crimes, 48% were property crimes and the remaining 40% were other *Criminal Code* offences.
- Canada's rate of violent crime in 2005 was 943 per 100,000 population. Alberta's rate of violent crime was 1,096 per 100,000 population while the City of Edmonton's rate of violent crime was 940 per 100,000 population.
- Canada's rate of property crime in 2005 was 3,738 per 100,000 population. Alberta's rate of property crime was 4,874 per 100,000 population. The City of Edmonton's rate of property crime was 7,650 per 100,000 population.
- Of the 92,358 *Criminal Code* offences reported in the City of Edmonton in 2005, 7.3% were violent crimes, 59.0% were property crimes, and the remaining were other *Criminal Code* offences.
- On any given day in 2003/04, approximately 154,606 Canadian adults were under custodial (20.7%) or community supervision (79.3%) having committed criminal code offences.
- A recent quasi-national study of youth born in 1979/80 found 18 per 100 persons (28 per 100 males and 8 per 100 females) were referred to youth or adult criminal court for alleged incidences committed between their 12th and 22nd birthdays.
- The cohort was comprised of 55.1% one-time offenders; 28.4%, repeat offenders; and 16.4%, chronic offenders. Chronic offenders were responsible for 58.2% of all incidents; repeat offenders, 23.9%; and one-time offenders, 17.8%.
- A strong relationship was found to exist between the age a youth first offended and the total number of offences committed by the youth. Of youth who first offended at age 12 years, 44% were chronic offenders, compared to only 1% whose court career began at 21 years.
- Only 6% of admissions to the federal corrections system in 2003/04 were females (twice as many, however, as the 3% admitted in 1994/95).
- Overall, Aboriginal people in 2003/04 were over-represented in Canadian correctional services, accounting for 21% of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody, 18% of admissions to federal custody, 18% of admissions to remand, 16% of probation admissions, and 19% of admissions to conditional sentencing.
- Since the introduction of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)*, the proportion of apprehended youths who are formally charged by police has dropped from 56% in 2002 (pre-YCJA) to 43% in 2005 (post-YCJA).

(continued)

- The rates of youth *Criminal Code* charges and alternative measures per 1,000 youth aged 12 to 17 years in the City of Edmonton ranged from 83.2 in 1998 to 52.7 in 2005 – a decrease of 36.7%.
- Justice spending in 2002/03 was just over \$12.6 billion – 61.7% for policing, 9.1% for the courts, 4.8% for legal aid plans, 21.6% for adult corrections, and 2.8% for prosecutions.
- The cost of Canada's adult correctional system for the 2003/04 fiscal year was \$85.98 *per capita* (\$45.76 for the federal system; \$40.21 for the provincial/territorial system).
- On average in 2003/04, \$240.18 per day was spent on a federal inmate, compared to \$141.75 per day at the provincial/territorial level.
- Of respondents to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS), 28% indicated that they had been victimized one or more times in the twelve months preceding the survey.
- Single (not married) respondents to the GSS reported a higher rate of violent victimization (203 per 1,000 population) than those who were common-law (131 per 1,000 population) or married (52 per 1,000 population).
- The rates of violent victimization were highest for those looking for work (207 per 1,000 population) and students (183 per 1,000 population). Retired individuals had the lowest rates (18 per 1,000 population).
- The rate of violent victimization was 1.5 times greater for individuals in households with incomes of less than \$15,000 per annum than those in higher income brackets.
- The rate of violent victimization for those who were gay or lesbian was 242 per 1,000 population compared to 99 per 1,000 population of those who were heterosexual.

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CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION

A. CRIME

1. INTRODUCTION

“Crime occurs when someone breaks the law. In Canada, what constitutes unlawful behaviour is recorded in the *Criminal Code of Canada*. When someone commits an act that is a violation of the *Criminal Code*, they may be charged with a crime and arrested. Some crimes are against property (for example, break and enter and fraud) and other crimes are committed against persons (for example, physical and sexual assault). Some crimes involve both property and people. All crime is serious and should be treated as such. It is important to remember that even relatively “minor” crime can be devastating to a person’s life.”¹

According to the Canadian Constitution, “the federal government is responsible for enacting and administering criminal law, enacting divorce law and the appointment of superior court judges. The federal government is also responsible for Aboriginals and lands reserved for Aboriginals. The provincial government is responsible for the administration or management of criminal justice within the province, for the appointment of provincial court justices and justices of the peace, and for property and civil law within the province.”²

Alberta’s Minister of Justice is the Crown’s senior law officer, responsible for legal proceedings under the *Criminal Code*, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, (formerly the *Young Offenders Act*), and provincial laws. Alberta’s Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security maintain adequate and effective policing services to ensure safe communities under the *Police Act*. This Ministry is responsible for adult offenders who receive sentences of less than two years, young offenders sentenced under provincial and federal youth justice legislation, crime prevention activities, and services for victims of crime.

Police services enforce the laws in their jurisdiction, prevent crime, and protect life and property. Edmonton Police Service has “embraced the style of community-based policing. Community-based policing addresses community

¹ **The Impact of Victimization**, Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime, October 2005 (<http://www.crcvc.ca/docs/victimization.pdf> - search='The%20Impact%20of%Victimization').

² **Justice System**, Solicitor General and Public Security, Alberta Government, http://www.solgen.gov.ab.ca/organization/justice_system.aspx.

concerns by allowing community input into policing decisions. It puts police officers in a more ‘visible’ role, as close to the community as possible.”³

2. NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL CRIME RATES

“...there were four general trends in the crime rate⁴ between 1962 and 2000. Rates increased fairly steadily up to the early 1980s, leveled off throughout the decade, increased again in the early 1990s before declining steadily throughout the 1990s,”⁵

Figure 1 shows the overall trendline for the increase of *Criminal Code* incidents nationally from 1962 to 2002.⁶ The rate nearly doubled from 1962 to 1972 (from 2,771 per 100,000 population to 5,355 per 100,000 population). During the decade from 1972 to 1982, the rate of *Criminal Code* incidents increased by approximately two-thirds (to 8,773 per 100,000 population), followed by an increase in the next decade (1982 to 1992) of nearly 15% (to 10,040 per 100,000 population).

The decade from 1992 to 2002 saw a 23.2% decrease in the rate of *Criminal Code* incidents (Figure 2). “Between 2000 and 2002 the crime rate was relatively stable, however, in 2003 the national crime rate increased by 6%, the first substantial increase in over a decade.”⁷

³ **Ibid.**

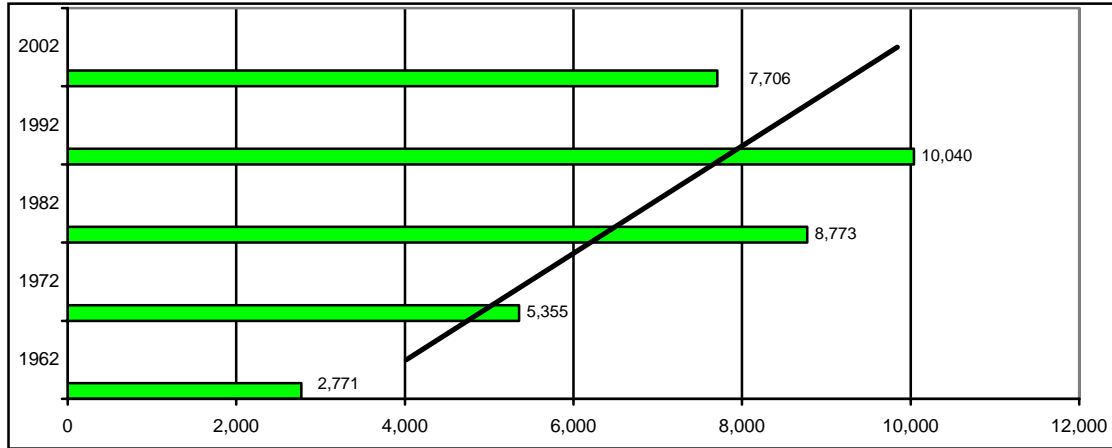
⁴ The total crime rate is a composite of violent crime, property crime, and other *Criminal Code* offences (excludes traffic offences).

⁵ **Exploring Crime Patterns in Canada**, V. P. Bunge, H. Johnson, and T A. Baldé, Crime and Justice Research Paper Series, Catalogue No. 85-561-MIE – No. 005, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Time Series Research and Analysis Centre, Statistics Canada, June 2005, p. 8.

⁶ Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. The population estimates come from the **Annual Demographic Statistics**, 2005 report, produced by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. Populations as of July 1st: intercensal estimates for 1962 to 1970, without adjustment for net census undercoverage. Populations as of July 1st: revised intercensal estimates for 1971 to 1995, final intercensal estimates for 1996 to 2000, final postcensal estimates for 2001 and 2002, updated postcensal estimates for 2003 and 2004, and preliminary postcensal estimates for 2005.

⁷ **Exploring Crime Patterns in Canada**, *op. cit.*

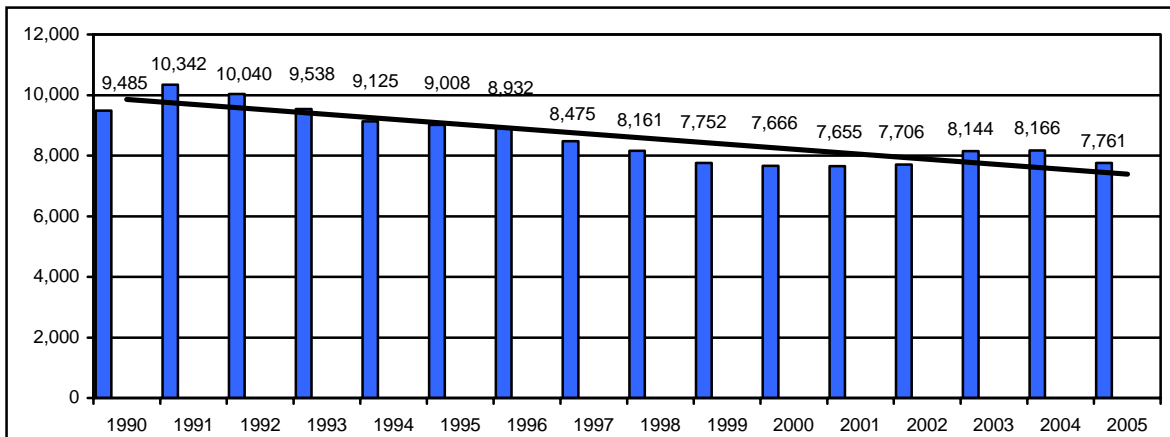
Figure 1: Rates of *Criminal Code* Incidents per 100,000 Population, Canada, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992, and 2002



Source: **Crime Statistics in Canada, 2004**, p 17.

“The overall crime rate dropped 5% in 2005. Decreases were seen in most crimes, with the exception of the serious crimes of homicide, attempted murder, assault with a weapon, aggravated assault and robbery.”⁸ This means that the overall crime rate increased to 8,144 per 100,000 population in 2003 and 8,166 per 100,000 population in 2004, then fell to 7,761 per 100,000 population in 2005, a rate similar to that in 2002 (7,706 per 100,000 population).⁹

Figure 2: Rates for Criminal Code Incidents per 100,000 Population, Canada, 1990-2005



⁸ **Juristat: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics**, Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005, Maire Gannon, Statistics Canada – Catalogue no. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 26, no. 4, p.1.

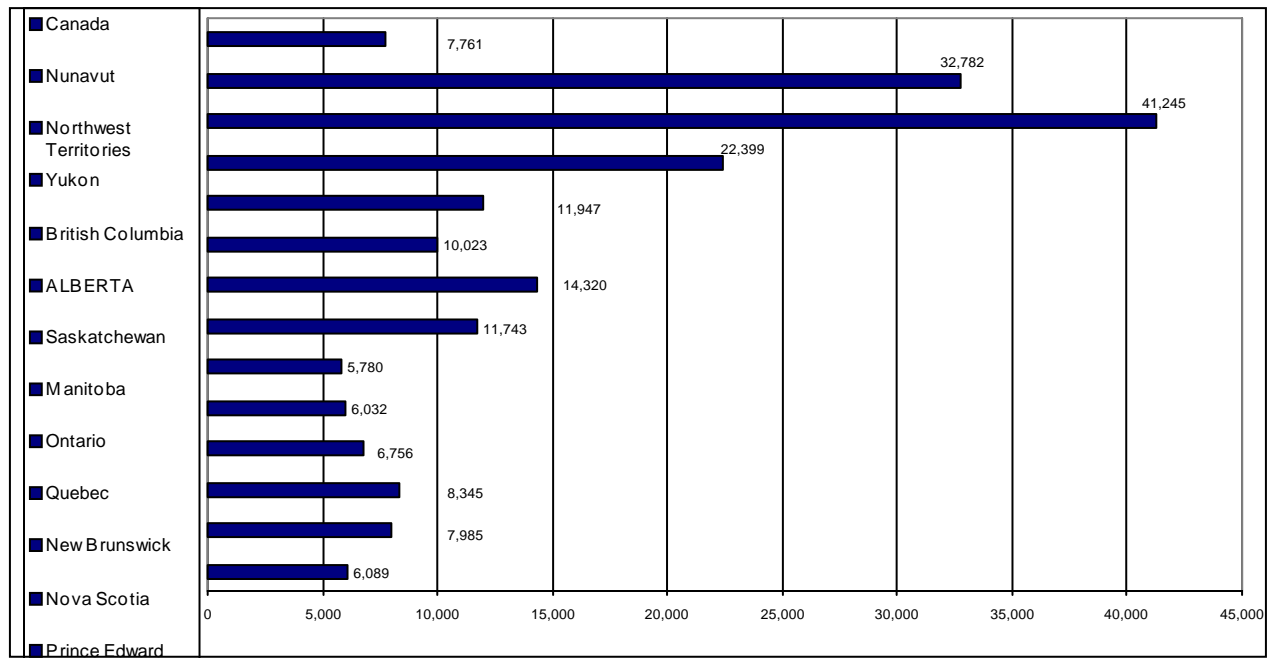
⁹ **Ibid.**, p. 16.

Source: Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005, p.16.

Figure 3 shows that Canada's territories had higher rates of *Criminal Code* offences (crime) per 100,000 population (Northwest Territories at 41,245, Nunavut at 32,782, and the Yukon at 22,399) than Canada's provinces in 2005. Saskatchewan at 14,320 per 100,000 population was the province with the highest rate of *Criminal Code* offences; Ontario at 5,780 had the lowest rate.

Alberta's rate of *Criminal Code* offences per 100,000 population was 10,023, the fourth highest of the provinces, but the lowest of the western provinces.

Figure 3: Rate per 100,000 Population of *Criminal Code* Offences, Provinces and Territories, 2005



Source: *The Daily*, Crime Statistics, 2005, Thursday, July 20, 2006, p. 7

Table 1 compares the national rate per 100,000 population of crimes by type with Alberta's provincial rate per 100,000 population of crimes by type for 2005. In all categories of incident, Alberta's rate per 100,000 population was higher than Canada's rate per 100,000 population. In fact, Alberta's rate for total *Criminal Code* offences (without traffic offences) was nearly thirty percent more than that for Canada's (10,023 per 100,000 population *versus* 7,761 per 100,000 population).

“In 2005, about 2.5 million *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic incidents and other federal statutes such as drug offences) were reported by police. Of these, 12% were violent crimes, 48% were property crimes, and the remaining 40% were other *Criminal Code* offences.... The distribution of offences has steadily changed over the last twenty-five years. In 1980, violent crimes represented a smaller percentage of all crimes (8%), property crimes had a higher representation (65%), and other *Criminal Code* offences had a lower representation (27%).”¹⁰

Table 1: Number and Rate per 100,000 Population of Selected Criminal Code Incidents, Alberta and Canada, 2005		
	Alberta	Canada
Population, 2005	3,256,816	32,270,507
Homicide		
Number	109	658
Rate	3.3	2.0
Assault (levels 1,2,3)¹¹		
Number	28,567	234,729
Rate	877	727
Sexual Assault (levels 1,2,3)		
Number	2,246	23,303
Rate	69	72
Robbery		
Number	2,972	28,669
Rate	91	89
Violent Crimes – Total		
Number	35,693	304,274
Rate	1,096	943
Breaking and entering		
Number	29,037	259,521
Rate	892	804
Motor vehicle theft		
Number	21,231	160,100
Rate	652	496
Other theft		
Number	89,144	658,205
Rate	2,737	2,040
Property crimes – Total		
Number	158,737	1,206,142

¹⁰ **Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005, op. cit., p. 3.**

¹¹ “Assault level 1” constitutes the intentional application of force without consent, attempt, or threat to apply force to another person, and openly wearing a weapon (or an imitation), and accosting or impeding another person. “Assault with weapon or causing bodily harm” is the second level of assault and constitutes assault with a weapon threats to use a weapon (or an imitation), or assault causing bodily harm. “Aggravated assault level 3” applies to anyone who wounds, maims, disfigures, or endangers the life of a complainant.

Rate	4,874	3,738
Counterfeiting currency ¹²		
Number	6,456	163,323
Rate	198	506
Mischief		
Number	54,680	353,955
Rate	1,679	1,097
Other Criminal Code offences –Total		
Number	132,014	994,143
Rate	4,053	3,081
Criminal Code -- Total (without traffic offences)		
Number	326,444	2,504,559
Rate	10,023	7,761

Source: **Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005**, p. 17.

“In addition, there were approximately 119,000 *Criminal Code* traffic incidents (of which nearly two-thirds were for impaired driving), over 92,000 drug incidents and over 31,000 other federal statute incidents (e.g., *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, Canada Shipping Act*). In all, police reported 2.7 million criminal incidents in 2005.”¹³

3. CRIME RATES FOR CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREAS¹⁴

“The nine largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs)¹⁵ represent nearly half (47%) of all offences reported by police services in Canada and account for 50% of the national population.”¹⁶

Figure 4 shows that the rate of 2005 *Criminal Code* offences in census metropolitan areas (CMAs) ranged from 4,528 per 100,000 population in Quebec to 13,236 per 100,000 population in Saskatoon. The rate for Edmonton CMA was 10,529 per 100,000 population toward the higher end of the range; the rate for Calgary CMA was considerably lower, 7,010 per 100,000 population.

¹² Due to an improved data collection methodology for counterfeiting introduced in 2005, numbers for certain police services, primarily in Ontario were revised for 2004. Therefore, please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

¹³ **Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005, op. cit.**, p. 3.

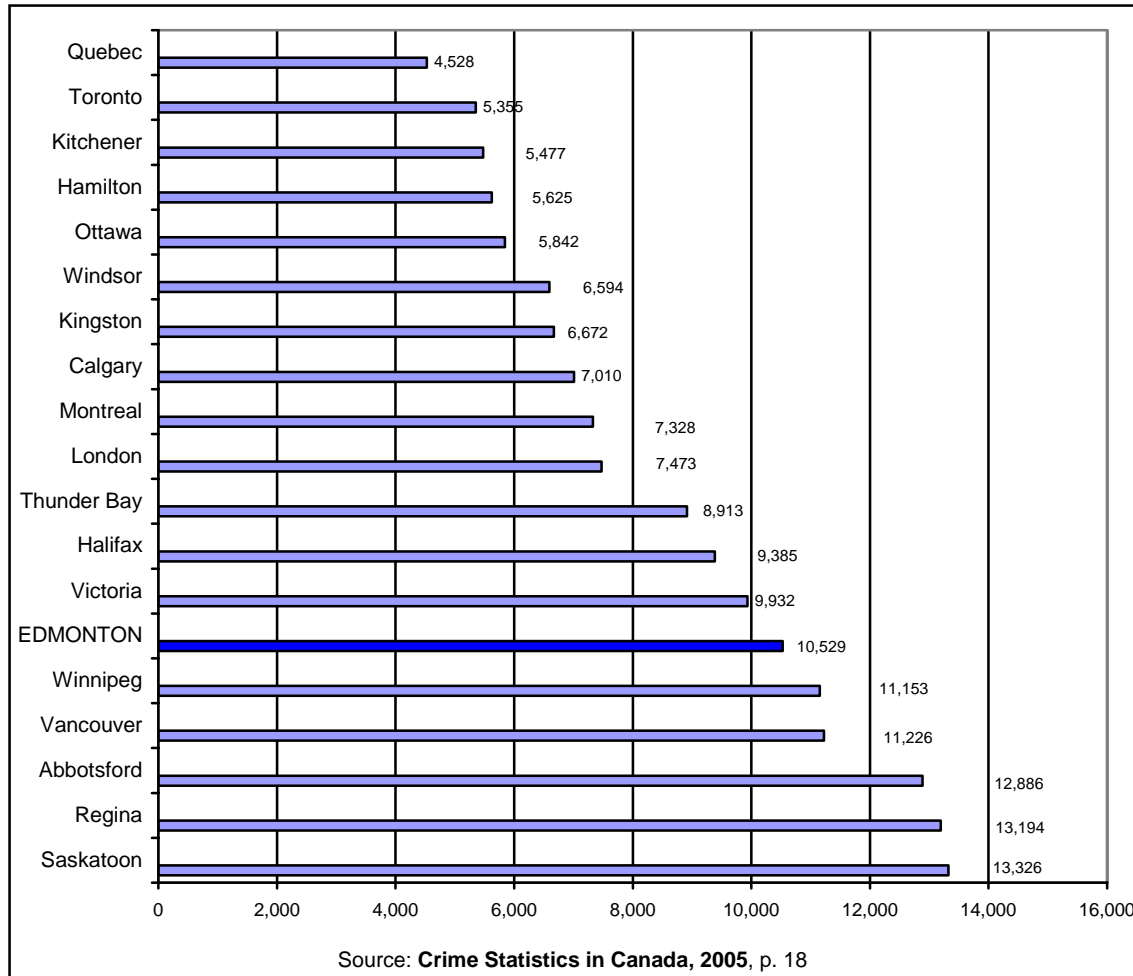
¹⁴ A Metropolitan Area is defined by Statistics Canada as “a very large urban area (known as the urban core) together with the adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core. An MA has an urban core population of at least 100,000 based on the previous census.” A CMA typically contains more than one police force.

¹⁵ Canada’s nine largest CMAs (with population of 500,000 and over) are: Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, Toronto, Vancouver, and Winnipeg.

¹⁶ **Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005, op. cit.**, p. 4.

The rates of 2005 *Criminal Code* offences declined from those of 2004 in eight of the nine CMAs with populations 500,000 and over. “The largest decreases were observed in Winnipeg (-8%) and Edmonton (-8%). The only CMA to remain relatively stable was Ottawa, where the crime rate was up slightly (+1%).”¹⁷

Figure 4: Rate of *Criminal Code* Offences per 100,000 Population by Selected Census Metropolitan Areas, 2005¹⁸



¹⁷ **Ibid..**

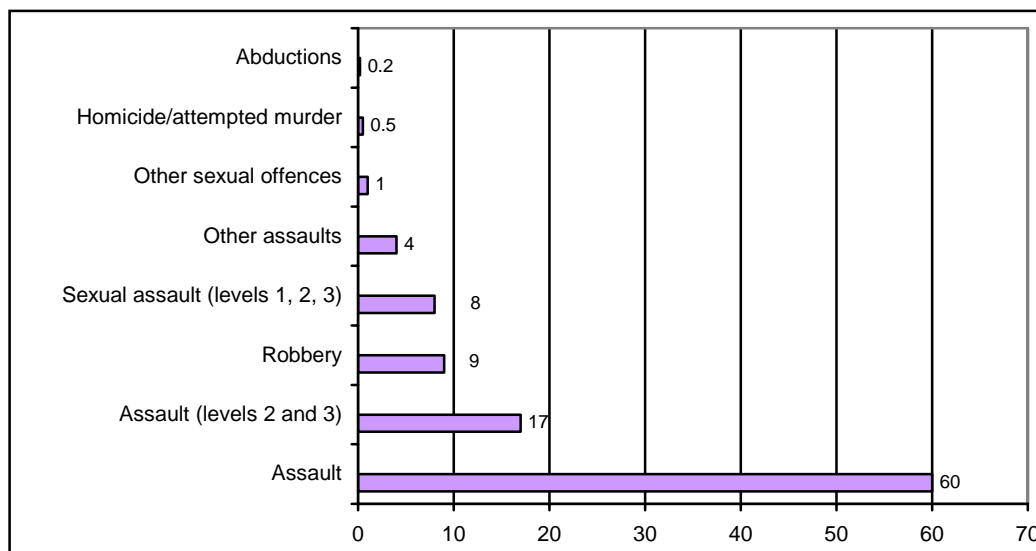
¹⁸ Note that crime data from April to December 2004 for Winnipeg are estimates (except for homicide and motor vehicle theft) due to the implementation of a new records management system. Crime counts for breaking and entering, weapons offences, and bail violations for Toronto Police in 2005 are estimates due to new methods in data processing arising from the implementation of a new records management system. Therefore, please use caution comparing these data with previous years. Crime data from February to April 2005 for Abbotsford Police are estimates due to the implementation of a new records management system. In addition, Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

4. VIOLENT CRIME RATES

“...violent crime is comprised of homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual assault, other assaults, other sexual offences, abduction and robbery. There were about 304,000 violent incidents 2005, resulting in a rate that was similar to the 2004 rate.... The stability in 2005 can be explained by an increase in the most serious low volume crimes, such as homicide and attempted murders, and a corresponding decrease (-2%) in the most frequent violent offence, common assault.”¹⁹

Figure 5 shows that 60% of all incidents of violent crime in Canada were level 1 assaults (see definitions of levels 1, 2, and 3 assaults in footnote 11, page 5) in 2005. In addition, levels 2 and 3 assault accounted for 17% of violent crime incidents; robbery, 9%; levels 1, 2, and 3 sexual assault, 8%; other assaults, 4%; other sexual offences, 1%; and homicide/attempted murder and abductions (0.5% and 0.2%, respectively).

Figure 5: Percentage of Categories of Violent Crime, Canada, 2005



Source: **Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005**, p. 5.

Figure 6 shows that the rates of violent crime per 100,000 population for the territories (Nunavut [7,042], the Northwest Territories [6,614], and the Yukon [3,088]) were significantly higher than the violent crime rates per 100,000 population for the provinces. Saskatchewan, at 1,983 per 100,000 population, had the highest provincial rate of violent crime; Quebec, at 739 per 100,000 population had the lowest, followed by Ontario at 748 per 100,000 population. Alberta's rate of violent crime was 1,096 per 100,000 population, lowest of the western provinces.

¹⁹ **Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005**, op. cit., p. 5.

“For the eighth year in a row, Saskatchewan reported the highest violent crime rate among the provinces, despite the fact that it reported a decrease in violent crime. Saskatchewan’s rate was 24% higher than the next highest province, Manitoba.”²⁰

Figure 6: Rates of Violent Crimes per 100,000 Population, Canada and the Provinces, 2005

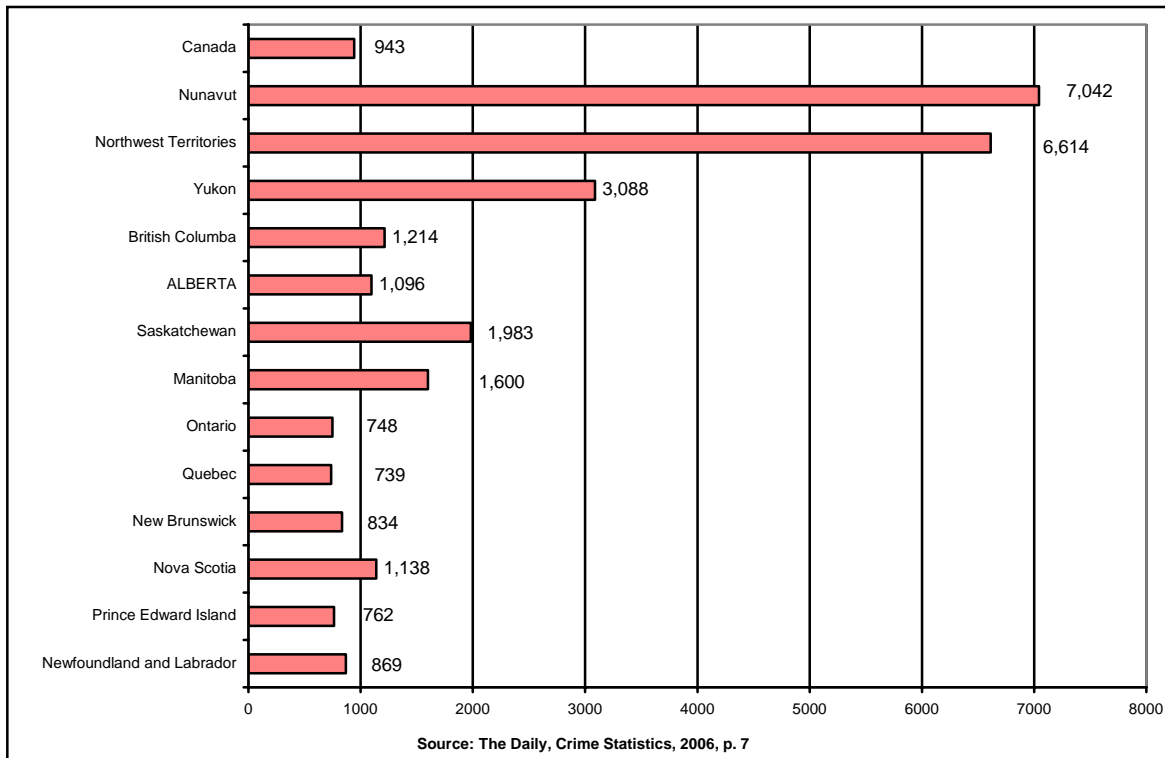


Table 2 shows the rates per 100,000 population of violent crime for the largest Canadian police services²¹ in 2005. Halifax Regional Police Services reported the highest rate of violent crime, 1,790 per 100,000 population, followed by Saskatoon Police at 1,775 per 100,000 population. York Regional Police reported the lowest rate of violent crime, 432 per 100,000 population, followed by Halton Regional Police at 435 per 100,000 population.

Edmonton Police reported a violent crime rate of 924 per 100,000 population, 12.4% higher than the rate of crime reported by Calgary Police (822 per 100,000 population). Note that Alberta’s and Canada’s rates of violent crime were 1,096 and 943 per 100,000 population, respectively (Figure 6, above).

²⁰ **Ibid..**

²¹ Usually more than one police service is responsible for enforcing the law within the boundaries of a single CMA.

Table 2: Rates per 100,000 Population of Violent Crime, Canada's Largest Police Services,²² 2005			
Police Service	Population²³	Rate of Violent Crime	Rate of Total Criminal Code Offences
Vancouver CMA Police Services²⁴			
Surrey (RCMP)	393,971	1,386	12,650
Vancouver	584,701	1,249	11,719
Burnaby (RCMP)	204,320	1,041	12,334
Richmond (RCMP)	173,429	622	9,411
Montreal CMA Police Services			
Montreal	1,873,813	1,065	9,726
Longueuil	389,071	726	6,209
Laval Police	370,368	680	5,132
Toronto CMA Police Services			
Toronto ²⁵	2,607,637	1,006	7,310
Peel Regional	1,148,445	462	3,293
York Regional ²⁶	922,487	432	3,259
Other Large Police Services			
Halifax Regional	213,274	1,790	12,274
Saskatoon	203,032	1,775	15,123
Regina	182,459	1,676	13,932
Winnipeg ²⁷	649,921	1,328	11,702
Gatineau	245,629	949	5,938
Edmonton	718,788	924	11,711
Hamilton Regional	519,878	864	6,287
Windsor	221,879	837	8,393
St. John's (RNC)	181,527	833	6,492
Calgary	970,797	822	6,889
London	359,447	795	8,420
Greater Sudbury	160,912	740	5,769
Durham Regional ²⁸	575,201	646	4,916
Ottawa	832,550	645	5,968
Quebec	530,618	570	5,054
Sherbrooke	148,225	569	5,042
Waterloo Regional	485,248	554	5,441
Niagara Regional	434,347	562	5,998

²² Data include all incidents reported in the jurisdiction of each police force, including incidents such as counterfeiting currency which may have been handled by other police services.

²³ Police Service population estimates were derived from 2005 preliminary postcensal population estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada.

²⁴ The police services listed under the Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver CMAs do not represent all police services in the CMA.

²⁵ Crime counts for breaking and entering, weapons offences, and bail violations for Toronto Police in 2005 are estimates due to new methods in data processes arising from the implementation of a new records management system. Please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

²⁶ In 2005, York Regional Police implemented a new records management system. Therefore, please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

²⁷ Crime data from April to December 2004 for Winnipeg are estimates (except for homicide and motor vehicle thefts) due to the implementation of a new records management system.

²⁸ Note that 60% of the crime handled by Halton Regional Police, and 35% of the crime handled by Durham Regional Police fall within Toronto CMA boundaries.

Saguenay	147,071	443	3,723
Halton Regional	443,402	435	3,588

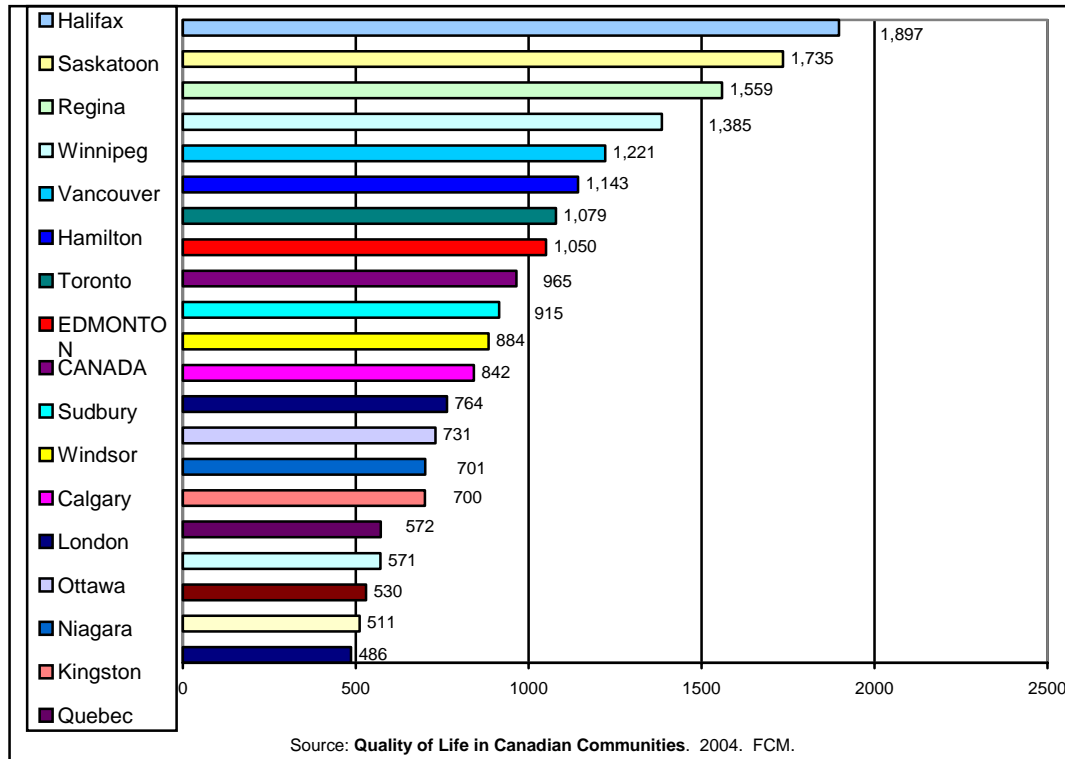
Source: **Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005**, p. 19.

Figure 7 shows the 2002 rates of violent crime per 100,000 population for the twenty municipalities (40% of Canada's population) included in the Quality of Life Reporting System (QOLRS) developed by the Federation of Canadian municipalities (FCM).²⁹ Halifax had the highest rate of violent crime at 1,897 per 100,000 population, followed by Saskatoon (1,725 per 100,000 population) and Regina (1,559 per 100,

Edmonton's 2002 rate of violent crime was 1,050 per 100,000 population, somewhat higher than the national rate of 965 per 100,000 population and Calgary's rate of 842 per 100,000 population. Halton was the municipality under the QOLRS reporting the lowest rate of violent crime per 100,000 population (486), followed by York (511 per 100,000 population) and Peel (530 per 100,000 population).

²⁹ The Quality of Life Reporting System (QOLRS) measures, monitors, and reports on the quality of life in Canadian municipalities using data from a variety of national and municipal sources. These municipalities comprise some of Canada's largest urban centres, many of the suburban municipalities surrounding them, as well as small and medium sized municipalities in seven provinces.

Figure 7: Rates of Violent Crime per 100,000 Population, Selected Police Forces, Canada, 2002



5. PROPERTY CRIME RATES

“Property crimes are committed with the intent to acquire property without violence or the threat of violence. In 2005, police reported about 1.2 million property crimes.”³⁰

In 2005, the number of property crimes (1,206,142) reported was approximately four times the number of violent crimes reported (304,274). Figure 8 shows that theft \$5,000 and under accounted for more than half (52%) of property crimes. The remaining 48% of property crimes were comprised of break-ins (22%), motor vehicle theft (13%), fraud (8%), possession of stolen goods (3%), and theft over \$5,000 (1%).³¹

³⁰ Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005, op. cit., p. 8.

³¹ Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Figure 8: Percentage of Categories of Property Crime, Canada, 2005

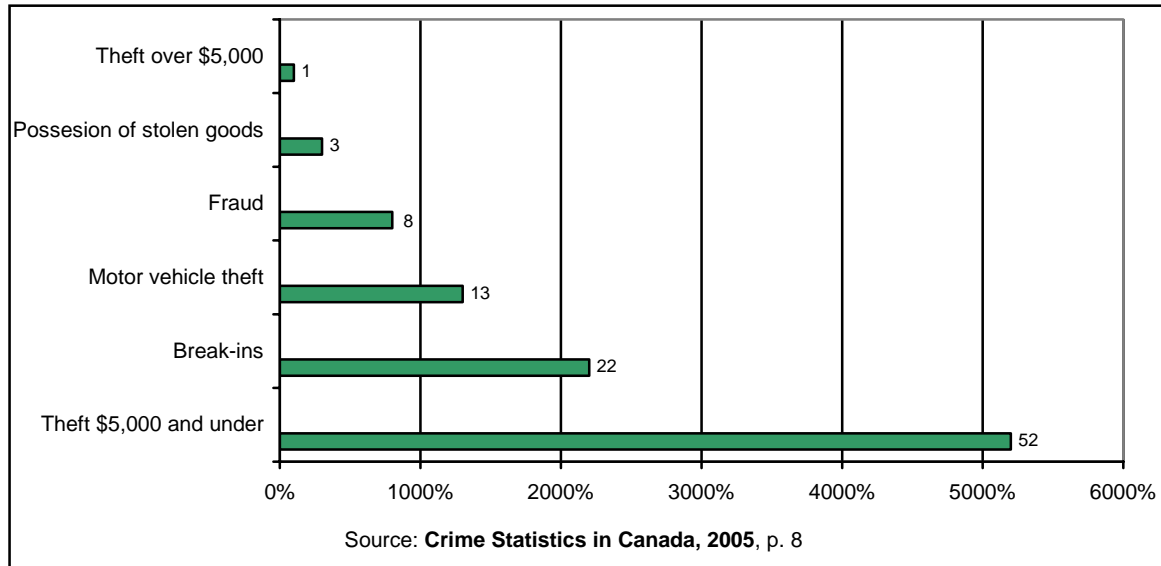


Figure 9 shows that the Northwest Territories had the highest rate of property crime in 2005 per 100,000 population (6,484), followed by British Columbia (6,234), and Nunavut (5,555). Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest rate of property crime per 100,000 population (2,535), followed by New Brunswick (2,723). Alberta's property crime per 100,000 population was 4,874; Canada's property crime per 100,000 population was 3,738. In all cases, the eastern provinces exhibited lower rates of property crimes than the western provinces and the territories.

Figure 9: Rates of Property Crimes per 100,000 Population, Canada and the Provinces, 2005

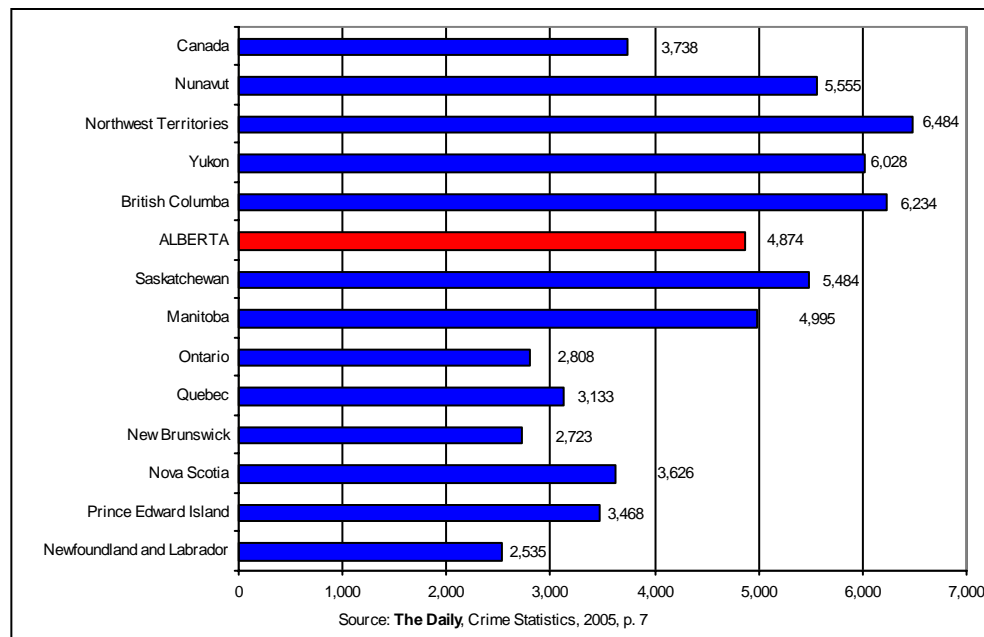


Table 3 shows the rates of property crimes per 100,000 population for the largest Canadian police services in 2005. Vancouver Police Services reported the highest rate of violent crime, 7,587 per 100,000 population, followed by Regina Police at 7,507 per 100,000 population. York Regional Police reported the lowest rate of property crime, 1,864 per 100,000 population, followed by Halton Regional Police at 1,880 per 100,000 population.

Edmonton Police reported a property crime rate of 7,435 per 100,000 population, 72.9% greater than the property crime rate reported by Calgary of 4,300 per 100,000 population.

Table 3: Rates per 100,000 Population of Property Crime, Canada's Largest Police Services,³² 2005

Police Service	Population³³	Rate of Property Crime	Rate of Total Criminal Code Offences
Vancouver CMA Police Services³⁴			
Vancouver	584,701	7,587	11,719
Burnaby (RCMP)	204,320	7,442	12,334
Surrey (RCMP)	393,971	7,391	12,650
Richmond (RCMP)	173,429	4,974	9,411
Montreal CMA Police Services			
Montreal	1,873,813	4,486	9,726
Longueuil	389,071	3,719	6,209
Laval	370,368	3,155	5,132
Toronto CMA Police Services			
Toronto ³⁵	2,607,637	2,977	7,310
Peel Regional	1,148,445	1,913	3,293
York Regional ³⁶	922,487	1,864	3,259
Other Large Police Services			
Regina	182,459	7,507	13,932
Edmonton	718,788	7,435	11,711
Saskatoon	203,031	7,233	15,123
Halifax Regional	213,242	6,837	12,274
Winnipeg ³⁷	649,921	6,222	11,702
Windsor	221,879	4,593	8,393

³² Data include all incidents reported in the jurisdiction of each police force, including incidents such as counterfeiting currency which may have been handled by other police services.

³³ Police Service population estimates were derived from 2005 postcensal population estimates, Demography Division, Statistics Canada

³⁴ The police services listed under the Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver CMAs do not represent all police services in the CMA.

³⁵ Crime counts for breaking and entering, weapon offences, and bail violations for Toronto Police in 2005 are estimates due to new methods in data processes arising from the implementation of a new records management system. Therefore, please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

³⁶ In 2005 York Regional Police implemented a new records management system. Therefore, please use caution when comparing these data with prior years.

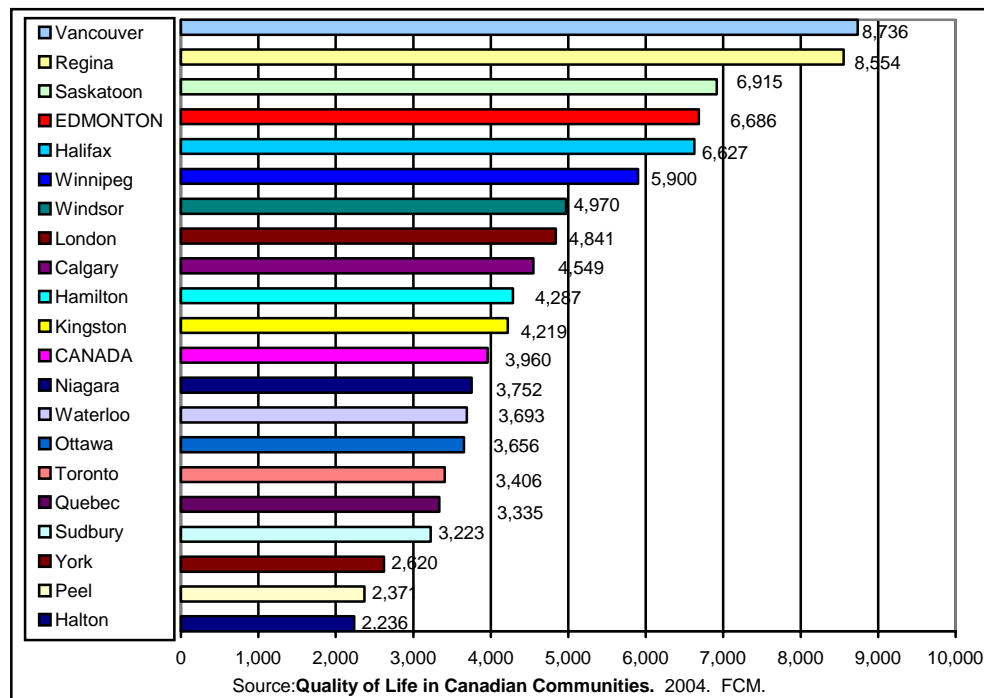
³⁷ Crime data from April to December 2004 for Winnipeg are estimates (except for homicide and motor vehicle thefts) due to the implementation of a new records management system.

London	359,447	4,559	8,420
Calgary	970,797	4,300	6,889
St. John's (RNC)	181,527	3,850	6,492
Hamilton Regional	519,878	3,505	6,287
Niagara Regional	434,347	3,396	5,988
Waterloo Regional	485,248	3,340	5,968
Gatineau	245,629	3,294	5,938
Ottawa	832,550	3,255	5,968
Quebec	530,618	3,214	5,054
Greater Sudbury	160,912	3,213	5,769
Sherbrooke	148,225	2,721	5,042
Durham Regional ³⁸	575,201	2,324	4,916
Saguenay	147,071	2,005	3,723
Halton Regional	443,402	1,880	3,588

Source: **Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005**, p. 19.

Figure 10 shows the 2002 rates of property crime per 100,000 population for the twenty municipalities included the Quality of Life Reporting System. Vancouver had the highest rate of property crime at 8,736 per 100,000 population, followed by Regina (8,554 per 100,000 population) and Saskatoon (6,915 per 100,000 population).

Figure 10: Rates of Property Crime per 100,000 Population, Selected Police Forces, Canada, 2002



³⁸ Note that 60% of the crime handled by Halton Regional Police, and 35% of the crime handled by Durham Police fall within Toronto CMA boundaries.

Edmonton's 2002 rate property crime was 6,686 per 100,000 thousand population, nearly half again Calgary's property crime rate of 4,549 per 100,000 population and close to seventy percent higher than the national property crime rate of 3,960 per 100,000 population.

Halton was the municipality reporting the lowest property crime rate at 2,236 per 100,000 population, followed by Peel (2,371 per 100,000 population) and York (2,620 per 100,000 population), all in the region around Toronto. Note that these three municipalities also had the lowest violent crime rate.

6. EDMONTON'S CRIME RATES

Table 4³⁹ shows the number of *Criminal Code* (including traffic) and non-*Criminal Code* offences for the City of Edmonton from 2001 to 2005.⁴⁰ Overall, the number of *Criminal Code* offences increased from 79,734 (120 per 1,000 population) in 2001 to 93,933 (134 per 1,000 population) in 2004, then decreased to 92,358 (130 per 1,000 population in 2005).

Note that from 2004 to 2005:

“Reductions were seen in *all* major categories of crime with the largest absolute decrease occurring for property crime (-897, 2%), followed by criminal code traffic offences (-351, 8%), ‘other’ crime, (-261, 1%) and violent crime (-66, 1%).”⁴¹

Many incident rates under the major categories of crime also decreased from 2004 to 2005. Notable exceptions, however, were increases in homicides (39%, from 28 to 39 murders), abduction (40%, from 10 to 14 incidents), prostitution (28%, from 374 to 477 incidents), and other provincial statutes⁴² (84%, from 1,112 to 2,041 incidents).

³⁹ **Edmonton Police Service 2001 – 2005 Crime Statistics Summary.**

⁴⁰ All data presented in this section are from EPS Probe reports run January 31, 2006. These data represent the months of January through December.

⁴¹ **Edmonton Police Service Statistical Report Year-to-Date December 2005**, Research and Evaluation Unit, Edmonton Police Service (EPS), p. 1 (Revised March 30, 2006).

⁴² Provincial Acts includes violations under the *Child Welfare Act*, *Public Health Act*, *Litter Act*, *Mental Health Act*, and other provincial statutes.

Table 4: Number of Criminal Code and Non-Criminal Code Offences by Type of Offence, City of Edmonton, 2001 to 2005⁴³

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ⁴⁴
Population	666,104	677,430	688,940	700,660	712,391
Crime Rate per 1,000 Population	120	124	134	134	130
Total Criminal Code Offences	79,734	84,014	91,998	93,933	92,358
VIOLENT CRIME -- TOTAL	7,678	7,327	7,368	6,784	6,718
Homicide	22	25	18	28	39
Attempted murder	8	8	3	14	6
Robbery	1,382	1,316	1,605	1,376	1,421
Sexual assault	562	580	529	526	393
Non-sexual assault	5,538	5,265	5,123	4,703	4,756
Other sexual offences	160	129	86	127	89
Abduction	6	4	4	10	14
PROPERTY CRIME -- TOTAL	41,061	46,708	52,821	55,417	54,520
Break and enter attempts-Total	7,166	8,176	8,758	9,457	8,713
Residential	3,450	3,504	3,677	3,938	3,655
Business	2,018	2,620	2,920	2,639	2,187
Other	1,698	2,052	2,161	2,880	2,871
Motor vehicle theft and attempts	6,586	7,109	8,578	9,077	9,561
Theft over \$5,000	328	431	426	410	398
Theft \$5,000 and under	20,418	23,620	26,867	28,074	29,043
Have stolen goods	2,146	2,363	2,844	2,842	2,379
Fraud	4,417	5,009	5,348	5,557	4,426
OTHER CRIME -- TOTAL	26,036	25,293	27,203	27,149	26,888
Prostitution	884	631	453	374	477
Gaming and betting	2	1	0	5	2
Offensive weapons	1,063	1,083	1,075	1,005	1,101
Other Criminal Code ⁴⁵	24,087	23,578	25,675	25,765	25,308
CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC -- TOTAL	4,959	4,686	4,606	4,583	4,232
NON-CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES -- TOTAL	321,501	281,451	283,259	258,974	251,801
DRUGS ⁴⁶ -- TOTAL	1,478	1,695	1,649	1,592	1,492
Heroin	11	2	2	1	0
Cocaine	468	518	598	554	589
Cannabis	690	875	592	600	471
Methamphetamine ⁴⁷	N/A	N/A	9	279	299

⁴³ 2001-2005 offence data updated on January 31, 2006.

⁴⁴ Figures for 2005 are revised per **Edmonton Police Service Statistical Report Year-to-Date December 2005** (revised March 30, 2006), p. 5.

⁴⁵ Due to variable reporting procedures, counterfeiting currency offences have been excluded for all years reported.

⁴⁶ Drug and traffic statistics tend to reflect police enforcement rather than public reporting.

⁴⁷ Up to February 26, 2004, all methamphetamine-related offences were included in the 'other controlled drugs' category. On February 26, 2004 EPS began counting methamphetamine-related offences in a separate category. The nine offences in the 'methamphetamine' category for 2003 were reported on or after February 26, 2004.

Other drugs ⁴⁸	309	300	448	158	133
OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES -- TOTAL	569	192	156	138	87
PROVINCIAL ACTS – TOTAL	317,030	276,362	276,112	254,222	246,740
Liquor Act	4,413	5,051	6,592	5,873	4,332
Hazardous traffic ⁴⁹	283,267	245,409	237,203	212,547	211,168
Non-hazardous traffic ⁵⁰	28,945	25,582	31,756	34,690	29,199
Other provincial statutes	405	320	561	1,112	2,041
MUNICIPAL BYLAWS -- TOTAL	2,424	3,202	5,342	3,022	3,482

Source: **Edmonton Police Service 2001 – 2005 Statistics Summary.**

Figure 11 shows the rate of *Criminal Code* offences per 1,000 population for the City of Edmonton for 2001 to 2005 (based on population figures and number of *Criminal Code* offences shown in Table 4, page 16).

Figure 11: Rate of *Criminal Code* Offences per 1,000 Population, City of Edmonton, 2001 to 2005

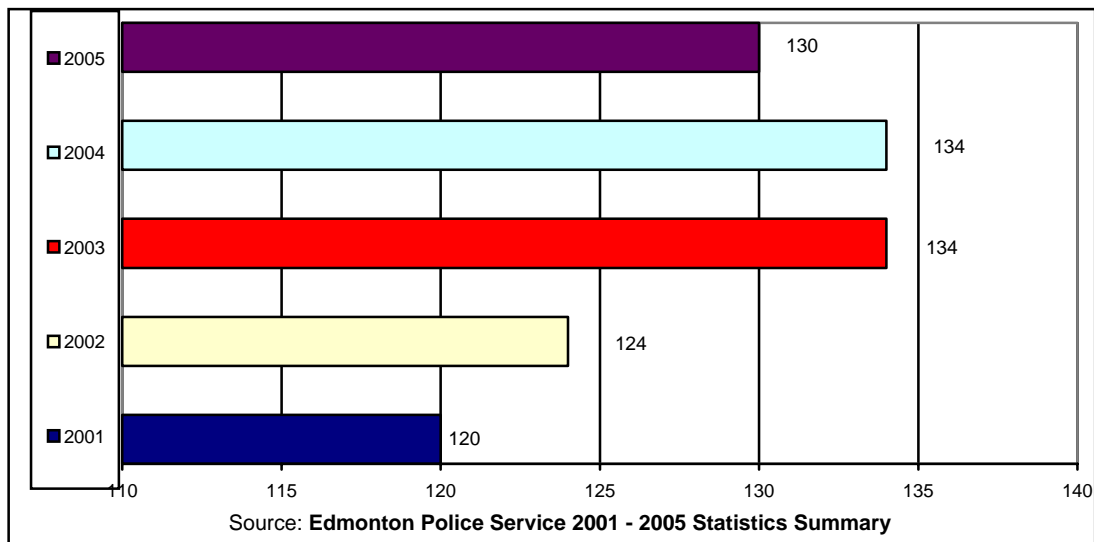


Table 5 compares the national, provincial and municipal rates of violent crime per 100,000 population in 2005. The provincial rate at 11.0 per 1,000 population was significantly higher than the national and municipal rates (both at 9.4 per 1,000 population).

⁴⁸ The decrease in 'other drugs' category in 2004 reflects the removal of methamphetamine on February 26, 2004.

⁴⁹ The 'hazardous traffic' category includes offences that may result in collisions.

⁵⁰ The 'non-hazardous traffic' category includes administrative offences such as unregistered vehicles.

Table 5: Comparison of Rates of Violent Crime per 1,000 Population for the City of Edmonton, Alberta, and Canada, 2005

	Number of Incidents	Rate
City of Edmonton	6,718	9.4
Alberta	35,693	11.0
Canada	304,274	9.4

Source: Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005 and Edmonton Police Service 2001 – 2005 Statistics Summary.

Figure 12 shows that the rate of violent crime for the City of Edmonton decreased from 11.5 per 1,000 population (7,678 incidents) in 2001 to 9.4 per 1,000 population in 2005 (6,718 incidents).

Figure 12: Rate of Violent Crime per 1,000 Population, City of Edmonton, 2001 to 2005

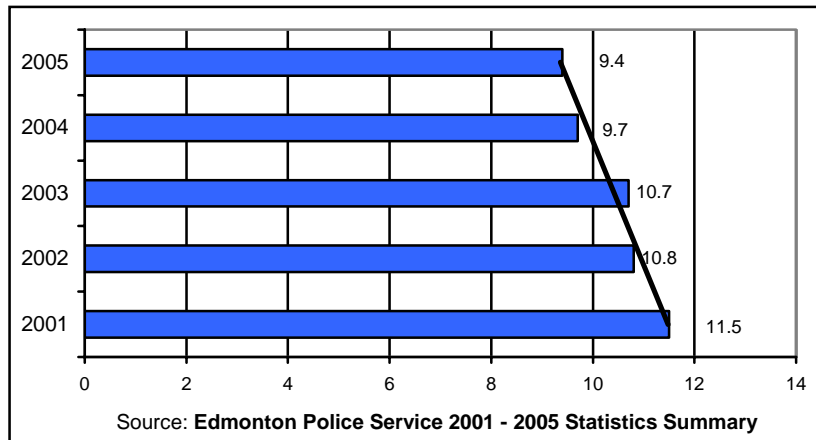


Table 6 and Figure 13 show that from 2001 to 2005 the number of violent crimes per annum decreased from 7,678 to 6,718 (12.5%). During the same period of time, total *Criminal Code* offences increased 15.8%.

Table 6: Percentage of Total *Criminal Code* Offences that Were Violent, City of Edmonton, 2001 to 2005

	# Violent crimes	# Total <i>Criminal Code</i> Offences	% Crimes that were violent
2001	7,678	79,734	9.6
2002	7,327	84,014	8.7
2003	7,368	91,998	8.0
2004	6,784	93,933	7.2
2005	6,718	92,358	7.3

Source: Edmonton Police Service 2001 – 2005 Statistics Summary.

From 2001 to 2004 the percentage of *Criminal Code* offences that were violent decreased from 9.6% to 7.2%, then increased in 2005 to 7.3%.

Figure 13: Percentage of Total *Criminal Code* Offences that Were Violent, City of Edmonton, 2002 to 2005

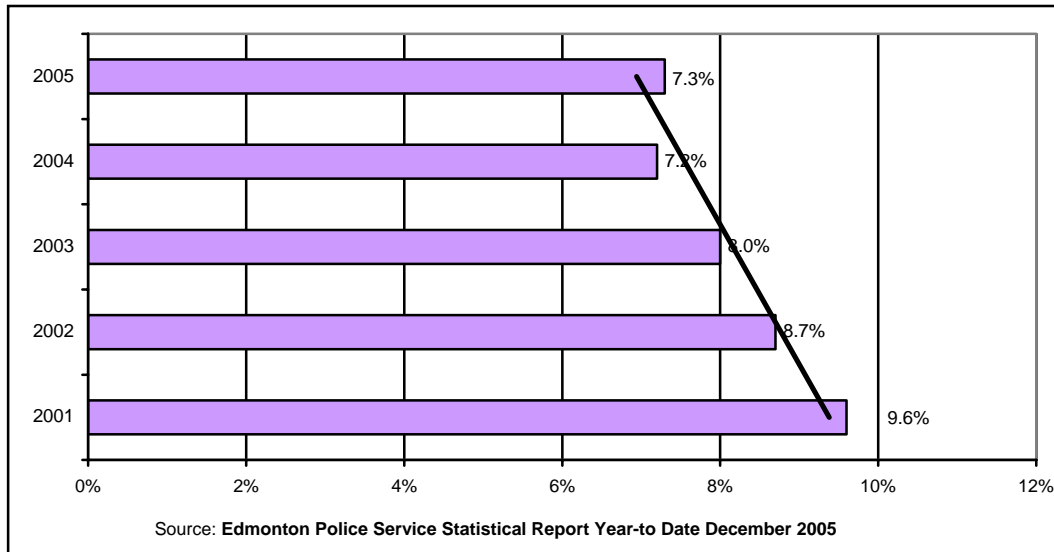


Figure 14 shows that the rate of property crime in the City of Edmonton increased from 61.6 per 1,000 population (41,061 incidents in 2001) to 79.1 per 1,000 population (55,417 incidents in 2004). The rate of property crime per 1,000 population in 2005 was somewhat less than in 2004, 76.5 per 1,000 population (54,520).

Figure 14: Rate of Property Crime per 1,000 Population, City of Edmonton, 2001 to 2005

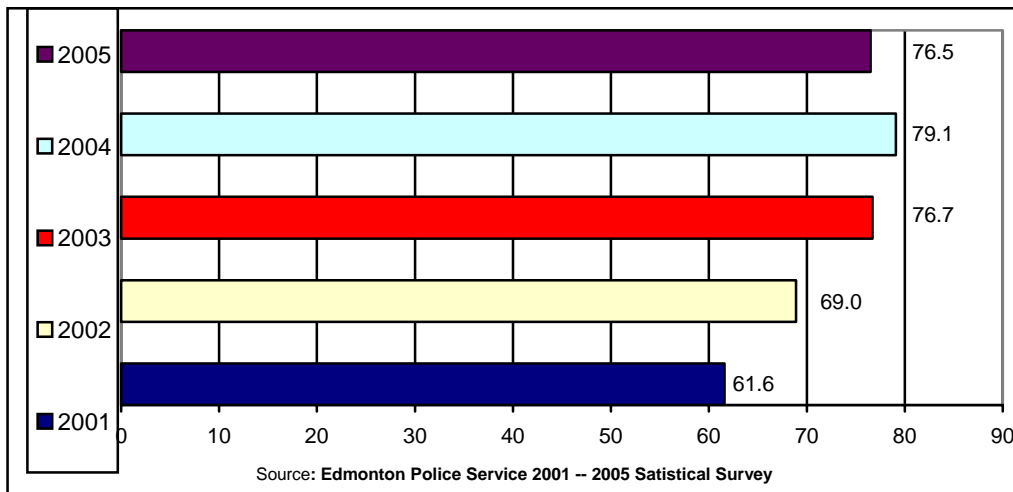


Table 7 compares the national, provincial, and municipal rates of property crime per 1,000 population in 2004. The municipal rate at 79.1 per 1,000 population was more than 50% higher than the provincial rate of 50.6 per 1,000 population and was nearly double the national rate of 39.9 per 1,000 population.

Table 7: Comparison of Rates of Property Crime per 1,000 Population for the City of Edmonton, Alberta, and Canada, 2005

	Number of incidents	Rate
City of Edmonton	54,520	76.5
Alberta	18,737	48.7
Canada	1,206,142	37.4

Source: Crime Statistics in Canada, 2004 and Edmonton Police Service 2001 - 2005 Statistics Summary.

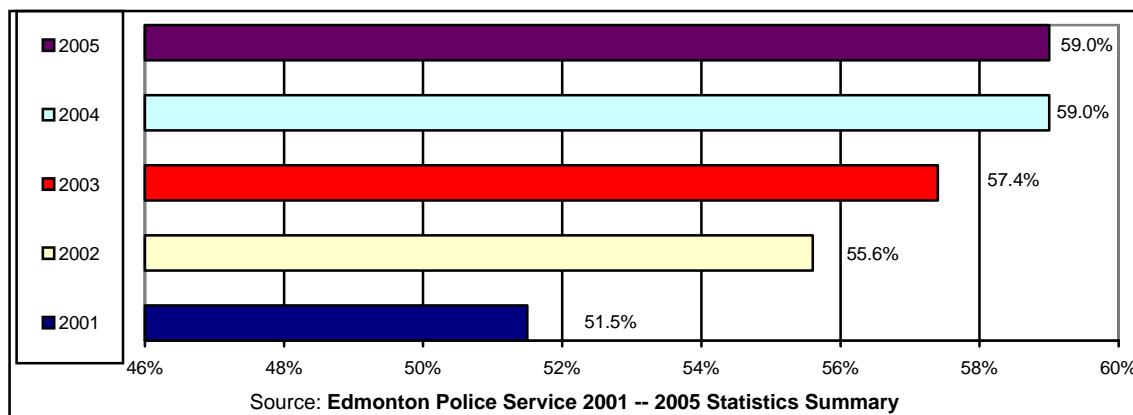
Table 8 and Figure 15 show that from 2001 to 2005, the number of property crimes per annum increased from 41,061 to 54,520 (32.8%). During the same period of time, total *Criminal Code* offences increased 15.8%, the percentage of *Criminal Code* offences that were property crimes increased from 51.5% to 59.0%, and the percentage of violent crimes decreased from 9.6% to 7.3%.

Table 8: Percentage of Total *Criminal Code* Offences that Were Property Crimes Compared to Percentage that Were Violent Crimes, City of Edmonton, 2001 to 2005

	# Property crimes	# Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	% Property crimes	% Violent crimes
2001	41,061	79,734	51.5%	9.6
2002	46,708	84,014	55.6%	8.7
2003	52,821	91,998	57.4%	8.0
2004	55,417	93,933	59.0%	7.2
2005	54,520	92,358	59.0%	7.3

Source: Edmonton Police Service 2001 – 2005 Statistics Summary.

Figure 15: Percentage of Total *Criminal Code* Offences that Were Property Crimes, City of Edmonton, 2001 to 2005



7. ADULT OFFENDERS

“The federal government and the provincial and territorial governments share the administration of correction services in Canada, which include custody⁵¹ (sentenced custody,⁵² remand⁵³ and other temporary detention⁵⁴) and community-based sentences as well as statutory release and parole supervision. Correctional services agencies at both levels work toward the same goals – the protection of society as well as the rehabilitation of offenders and their safe reintegration into communities.⁵⁵

Table 9 shows that on any given day in 2003/04, approximately 154,606 adults⁵⁶ were under custodial (32,007 or 20.7%) or community supervision⁵⁷ (122,599 or 79.3%). This represents an overall decline of 3% from 2002/03.

Table 9: Composition of the Average Count of the Adult Correctional Population, Canada, 2003/04		
Correctional service	Number	% of total
Custodial supervision		
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	9,844	6.4
Remand	9,160	5.9
Other provincial/territorial custody	361	0.2
Total provincial/territorial custody	19,366	12.5
Federal custody, sentenced	12,641	8.2
Total custodial supervision	32,007	20.7
Community supervision		
Probation	100,993	65.3
Provincial parole	885	0.6
Conditional sentences	13,632	8.8
Total provincial community supervision	115,510	74.7
Community releases (CSC) ⁵⁸	7,089	4.6
Total community supervision	122,599	79.3
Total correctional services	154,606	100.0

Source: *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04*, p. 3.

-
- ⁵¹ Custody/custodial supervision is detention of a person in a secure facility. Custody includes sentenced custody, remand, and temporary detention.
- ⁵² Sentenced custody is the detention of offenders convicted of a crime, either in a federal (2 years or more), or a provincial or territorial (less than 2 years) facility.
- ⁵³ Remand is court ordered detention of a person while awaiting a further court appearance. Note that remand and temporary detention are defined as non-sentenced custody.
- ⁵⁴ Temporary detention is the incarceration of a person (who is not on remand or has not been sentenced) for other reasons (e.g., immigration matters, parole suspension).
- ⁵⁵ **Juristat: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics**, *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04*, Karen Beattie, Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 25, no. 8, p. 2.
- ⁵⁶ Adults are defined as individuals 18 years of age or older at the time of the offence.
- ⁵⁷ Community supervision relates to the supervision of offenders on probation, conditional sentence, and community release (parole or statutory release).
- ⁵⁸ This category represents movement from custody to federal conditional release and includes provincial/territorial and federal offenders on day parole and full parole, and federal offenders on statutory release. Offenders released on warrant expiry and other release types are excluded. CSC denotes Correctional Service of Canada.

Of those under custodial supervision, 60.5% were under provincial/territorial custody (30.8%, provincial/territorial custody, sentenced; 28.6%, remand; and 1.1%, other provincial/territorial custody) and 39.5% were sentenced under federal custody. Of those under community supervision, 94.2% were under provincial community supervision (82.4%, probation;⁵⁹ 0.7%, provincial parole⁶⁰; and 11.1%, conditional sentences⁶¹) and 5.8% were under community release.

Table 10 shows that the number of individuals in sentenced custody in Alberta decreased from 2,215 in 1994/95 to 1,220 in 2003/04 (-44.9%). Over the same period, the number of people on remand increased from 497 to 941 (+89.3%).

Table 10: Variation in the Average Count of Persons in Sentenced Custody and on Remand between 1994/95 and 2003/04, Alberta			
	1994/95	2003/04	% change 1994/95-03/04
Sentenced Custody	2,215	1,220	-44.9
Remand ⁶²	497	941	89.3

Source: **Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04**, p. 4.

A similar pattern occurred nationally over the same ten year period, with the number of adults in sentenced custody decreasing -31.2% (from 14,317 to 9,844) and the number on remand increasing +72.0% (from 5,327 to 9,160).

“As is the case with remand, the average daily count of adults in other temporary detention has also increased substantially in the last decade. In 2003/04 the average count of individuals in other temporary detention on any given day was 3% higher than in 2002/03 and has increased by 81% since 1994/95.”⁶³

⁵⁹ Probation is the disposition of the court where the offender is given a suspended sentence or conditional discharge and is released on conditions prescribed in a mandatory probation order. The court may also direct the offender to comply with conditions of a probation order in addition to a fine or a sentence of custody.

⁶⁰ Provincial Parole is defined as programs of conditional release managed by administrative tribunals in Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia that have the authority to grant, deny, terminate, or revoke parole in their jurisdiction. Parole, itself, is defined as programs of conditional release from custody into the community under the authority of parole boards.

⁶¹ Conditional sentence is a disposition of the court introduced in 1996 where the offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under specified conditions. Conditional sentences are more restrictive than probation, but less serious than custody. This type of sentence can only be imposed in cases where the term of imprisonment would be less than two years, and is therefore administered by provincial and territorial correctional agencies.

⁶² Remand counts may include other temporary detention counts.

⁶³ **Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04, op. cit.**, p. 3.

Some of the reasons for the decline of offenders in provincial/territorial custody include:⁶⁴

- A drop in police-reported crime in the nineties, concurrent with a decline in the number of adults charged, has decreased the number of adults in court and the number receiving prison sentences.
- The introduction of conditioning sentencing has given the courts a community-based alternative to imprisonment and has reduced sentenced prison admissions.
- In addition, time served on remand may now be credited during sentencing.

Table 11 shows the national incarceration rate⁶⁵ decreased from 1999/00 to 2003/04 by -4.3% (from 136 to 130 per 100,000 population). Over the same period of time, Alberta's rate remained the essentially same, 90 per 100,000 population.

Table 11: Changes in Incarceration Rates per 100,000 Adult Population, Provincial, Territorial, and Federal Correctional Services, 1999/00 to 2003/04			
	1999/00	2003/04	% change from 1999/00 to 2003/04
Newfoundland/Labrador	67	65	-3.0
Prince Edward Island	80	71	-11.9
Nova Scotia	48	40	-17.3
New Brunswick	55	52	-5.1
Quebec	55	63	+15.6
Ontario	84	81	-3.2
Manitoba	129	140	+8.6
Saskatchewan	154	157	+2.3
ALBERTA	90	90	+0.5
British Columbia	82	63	-24.0
Yukon	274	220	-19.7
Northwest Territories and Nunavut ⁶⁶	684	677	-1.0
Provincial/territorial total	80	79	-1.8
Federal total	56	51	-7.9
TOTAL	136	130	-4.3

Source: *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04*, p. 8.

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

⁶⁵ Incarceration rate is the average daily number of adults in sentenced custody, remand, or other temporary detentions for every 100,000 adults in Canada.

⁶⁶ Data for Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been combined to allow calculation of percentage change.

Note that the incarceration rates per 100,000 population for the territories in 2003/04 were considerably higher than those for the provinces (677 per 100,000 population for Northwest Territories and Nunavut and 220 for the Yukon). The province with the highest incarceration rate in 2003/04 was Saskatchewan (157 per 100,000 population), followed by Manitoba (140 per 100,000 population).

The province with the lowest incarceration rate was Nova Scotia (40 per 100,000 population), followed by New Brunswick, (52 per 100,000 population). The national incarceration rate for 2003/04 was 130 per 100,000 population (comprised of a provincial territorial incarceration rate of 79 per 100,000 population and a federal incarceration rate of 51 per 100,000 population). Note: in 2003/04, the national incarceration rate was at its lowest level since 1981/82.⁶⁷

Table 12 shows that 358,350 Canadian adults were admitted to a correctional service programs (69.9% to custodial supervision and 30.1% to community supervision), a decrease of 2% from 2002/03.⁶⁸

Table 12: Composition of Admissions to the Adult Correctional Population, Canada, 2003/04		
		% of total
Custodial supervision:		
Provincial/territorial custody, sentenced	81,138	22.6
Remand	123,401	34.4
Other temporary detention, provincial/territorial	38,376	10.7
Total provincial/territorial custody	242,915	67.8
Federal custody, sentenced	7,577	2.1
Total custodial supervision	250,492	69.9
Community supervision		
Probation	79,626	22.2
Provincial parole	1,860	0.5
Conditional sentences	18,857	5.3
Total provincial community supervision	100,343	28.0
Community releases (CSC)	7,515	2.1
Total community supervision	107,858	30.1
Total correctional services	358,350	100.0

Source **Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04**, p. 9.

Of those sentenced to custodial supervision (97.0%), 32.4% were sentenced to provincial/territorial custody; 49.3%, to remand; and 15.3% received other provincial/territorial temporary detention. An additional 7,577 adults (3.0%) were sentenced to federal custody.

⁶⁷ **Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04**, p. 8.

⁶⁸ **Ibid.**

Of those admitted to provincial community supervision in 2003/04 (93.0%), 73.8% were on probation; 1.7%, provincial parole; and 17.5%, conditional sentences. An additional 7,515 adults (7.0%) were on community releases.

8. CHRONIC AND REPEAT OFFENDERS

A recent quasi-national (six provinces) study of the criminal careers of a birth cohort, found 18 per 100 persons⁶⁹ 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.”⁷⁰ The provinces included in the study were Newfoundland/Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, and accounted for 78% of Canada’s population (Table 13). Of the group, 80% were males (46,909); 20%, female (12,091).

For Alberta, the overall rate was 21.6 per 100 persons born in 1979/80 (32.1 per 100 males and 10.3 per 100 females). Of the total number of Albertans, 77% were male; 23%, female.

Table 13: Rate per 100 Cohort Members of Referral to Court in Relation to Incidents Occurring before the 22nd Birthday

	Males			Females			All offenders		
	Est. number	Pop.	Est. rate per 100 pop.	Est. number	Pop.	Est. rate per 100 pop.	Est. number	Pop.	Est. rate per 100 pop.
Newfoundland/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

Source: *Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort*, p. 57.

“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

⁶⁹ 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 Methodology section of **Crime and Justice Research Paper Series**, *Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort*, Peter J. Carrington, Anthony Matarazzo, and Paul deSouza, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, November 2005, p. 42, for how populations at risk were estimated.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

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.”⁷¹

In Alberta, 16.4 per 100 members of the birth cohort were found guilty of an offence committed before their 22nd birthday (25.0 per 100 males in the cohort and 7.2 per 100 females).⁷²

“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.”⁷³

The study also found that the mean number of criminal incidents in a member of the cohort's criminal career was 3.1 (3.3 for males and 2.4 for females).⁷⁴ Figure 16 shows that just over half (55.1%; -- 62.7% of females and 53.2% of males) of offenders in the cohort had a court career⁷⁵ of only one incident. Repeat offenders (those with two to four incidents) comprised 28.4% of the cohort (26.3% of females and 29.0% of males) and chronic offenders (persons in court in relation to 5 or more incidents) constituted the remaining 16.4% of offenders (11.0 % of females and 17.8% of males).

Figure 16: Proportions of Offenders and Incidents, by Number of Incidents per Person

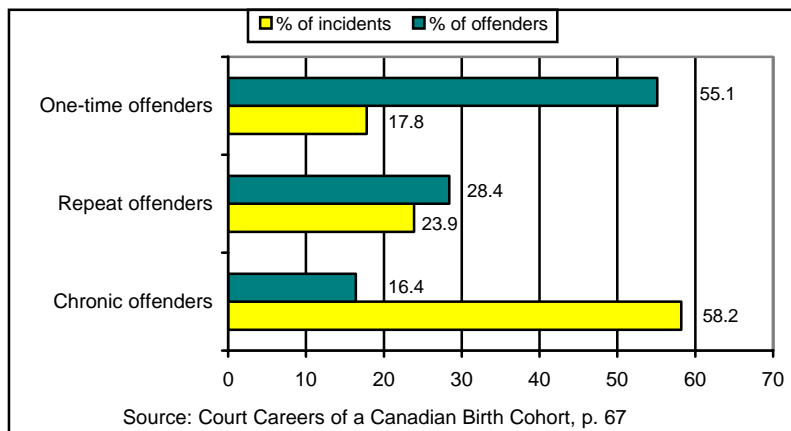


Figure 16 shows that chronic offenders (16.4% of the total offenders) are responsible for 58.2% of all incidents (45.0% of females and 60.7% of males). Repeat offenders account for 23.9% (28.6% of females and 23.1% of males)

⁷¹ **Ibid..**

⁷² **Ibid.**, p. 57.

⁷³ **Ibid.**, p. 39.

⁷⁴ **Ibid..**

⁷⁵ A court career was defined in this study 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.

while one-time offenders commit only 17.8% of incidents (26.4% of females and 16.2% of males). In addition:

“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. 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.

Similarly, the proportion of each age-of-onset group who are chronic offenders decreases rapidly with age of onset. 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.”⁷⁶

The cohort will continue to be followed to gain further information regarding individual court careers, as well as to determine differences between those whose court careers began in adolescence and those whose court careers as offenders began as adults.

Note that an earlier study of court-based recidivism in seven provinces and two territories found that “six out of every 10 convicted offenders aged 18 to 35 in 1999/2000 had at least one previous conviction, either in adult court since 1994/95 or in youth court since 1991/92.”⁷⁷

9. ADULT OFFENDERS, EDMONTON

In 2005, the total number of *Criminal Code* charges for the City of Edmonton was 36,692 of which 31,541 were adult charges (86.0%) and 5,151 were youth charges (14.0%).⁷⁸ Note that adult charges decreased -7.4% from 34,063 in 2004 while youth charges decreased -15.1% from 6,068.

⁷⁶ **Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort, op. cit.**, p. 18.

⁷⁷ **The Daily**, Pilot Analysis of Recidivism Among Convicted Youth and Young Adults, Wednesday, October 23, 2002.

⁷⁸ In addition, 111 charges were laid against youth under age 12 and 99 charges were laid against persons whose age was unknown.

Table 14: Number of *Criminal Code* and Non-Criminal Code Offences and Number of Adult Charges, City of Edmonton, 2005

	Actual Offences⁷⁹	Adult Charges⁸⁰
<i>Criminal Code</i> Offences –Total (Incl. Traffic)	92,358	31,541
VIOLENT CRIME -- TOTAL	6,718	3,309
Homicide	39	32
Attempted murder	6	5
Sexual assault	393	124
Non-sexual assault	4,756	2,722
Other sexual offences	89	74
Abduction	14	3
Robbery	1,421	349
PROPERTY CRIME -- TOTAL	54,520	8,880
Break and enter attempts-Total	8,713	580
Residential	3,655	334
Business	2,187	126
Other	2,871	120
Motor vehicle theft and attempts	9,561	246
Theft over \$5,000	398	35
Theft \$5,000 and under	29,043	3,692
Have stolen goods	2,379	2,289
Fraud	4,426	2,038
OTHER CRIME – TOTAL	26,888	15,229
Prostitution	477	472
Gaming and Betting	2	4
Offensive weapons	1,101	1,007
Other <i>Criminal Code</i>	25,308	13,746
CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC -- TOTAL	4,232	4,123
NON-CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES TOTAL	251,801	5,556
DRUGS – TOTAL	1,492	1,677
Heroin	0	0
Cocaine	589	669
Cannabis	471	504
Methamphetamine	299	337
Other controlled drugs	133	167
OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES -- TOTAL	87	20
PROVINCIAL ACTS – TOTAL	246,740	3,496
Liquor Act	4,332	364
Hazardous traffic	211,168	2,510
Non-hazardous traffic	29,199	31
Other provincial statutes	2,041	591
MUNICIPAL BYLAWS -- TOTAL	3,482	363

Source: **Edmonton Police Service Statistical Report Year-to-Date December 2005**
(revised March 30, 2006), p. 5.

⁷⁹ When a crime is reported to police, the offence is counted as a reported incident. Police then conduct a preliminary investigation to determine the validity of the report. Occasionally, a crime reported to the police proves to be unfounded. Unfounded incidents are subtracted from the number of reported offences to produce "actual offences."

⁸⁰ Criminal offences may be cleared by charge or cleared otherwise. Cleared by charge indicates that a person(s) has been charged with the incident.

Table 14 shows the number of adult charges per *Criminal Code* and non-*Criminal Code* offences for the City of Edmonton in 2005. From 2004 to 2005, adult criminal charges for property crime decreased 21.3%. Traffic crime decreased by 6.8% (303 charges) largely “due to declines in charges for impaired driving (-94, 6%) and blood alcohol exceeding 80 mg. (-89, 7%).”⁸¹

In contrast to the overall decrease, adult charges for ‘other’ crime and violent crime increased slightly (1.0 % and 0.9%, respectively). The increase in ‘other’ crime was largely due to a rise in charges for failing to appear (393, 8%), female solicitation (117, 59%), and offensive weapons (87, 9%). The increase in charges for violent crime arose from an increase in non sexual assault (68, 3%) and homicide (21, 191%).⁸²

10. EDMONTON’S ADULT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

There are three Federal correctional facilities in Edmonton:

- Edmonton Institution, a maximum-security unit for male offenders opened in 1978 with a rated capacity of 221. In addition, there is an Edmonton Institution Reception Unit with a rated capacity of 48.
- Edmonton Institution for Women, a fenced multi-level facility (minimum, medium, and maximum), opened in the fall of 1995 with a rated capacity of 110. The institution contains nine living units that can house up to ten minimum- and maximum-security inmates each. In addition, the Structured Living Environment House (SLE) can accommodate up to eight minimum- and medium-security inmates with mental health needs. A Secure Unit for up to fifteen maximum-security inmates was opened in March 2003. There are also two Private Family Visiting Units.
- Grierson Centre is a minimum-security institution that accommodates up to thirty inmates. Minimum-security inmates are rated as low escape risks, low risks to public safety in the event of an escape, and have been progressing well with their correctional plans.

Alberta Justice operates the Edmonton Remand Centre and the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre. The provincial correctional service is a division of the Alberta Solicitor General and is responsible for all offenders who

⁸¹ Edmonton Police Services Statistical Report Year-to-Date, op. cit., p. 4.

⁸² Ibid..

receive prison sentences of less than two years (as well as administering all young offender sentences).

11. GENDER AND OFFENCES

“Traditionally, women’s involvement in the criminal justice system has been more as victims of crime rather than as perpetrators. In 2004, women were charged with committing 17% of all crime in Canada, whereas they represented about half (51%) of all victims of violent crime reported to a sample of police forces.”⁸³

Table 15 shows that on a national basis, in 2004, just over four hundred thousand adults were charged with *Criminal Code* offences (410,149) -- 75,805 females (18.4%)⁸⁴ and 334,335 males (81.5%). A higher percentage of males than females were charged in all categories and sub-categories of offences with the exception of abduction. In this sub-category of violent offences a higher percentage of females (55.8%) than males (44.2%) were charged. Even for the subcategory, prostitution, under other *Criminal Code* offences, a higher percentage of males (52.8%) than females (47.2%) were charged.

Of total property crimes, females were charged with 29,743 offences (23.2%) while males were charged with 98,290 offences (76.8%). Females, however, were charged with only 16.2% of all violent offences; males, with 83.8%. With respect to other *Criminal Code* offences, females were charged with 18.4% and males with 81.5%.

“Women have historically represented a relatively small proportion of the correctional population in Canada. In 2003/04, women represented just 9% of those admitted to provincial or territorial custodial institutions. They also made up 17% of probation intakes. Both figures have varied little over the last 10 years.”⁸⁵

⁸³ **Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report**, Women and the Criminal Justice System, Catalogue no. 89-503-XIE, Statistics Canada, 2006, p. 159.

⁸⁴ This percentage has gradually increased from 14% in 1977 (see: *Ibid.*, p. 168).

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 171.

Table 15: Adult Females and Males Charged by Type of Crime, Canada, 2004				
	Females		Males	
	Total charged	% of adults charged	Total charged	% of adults charged
Violent offences				
Homicide	49	10.2	432	89.8
Attempted murder	55	10.5	467	89.4
Sexual assault	124	1.8	6,752	98.2
Other sexual offences	22	3.5	605	96.4
Assault	16,332	17.5	76,864	82.4
Abduction	67	55.8	53	44.2
Robbery	750	10.5	6,374	89.4
Total violent offences	18,989	16.2	98,168	83.8
Property offences				
Breaking and entering	1,595	8.1	18,095	91.9
Motor vehicle theft	773	9.7	7,156	90.3
Theft over \$5,000	414	25.4	1,217	74.6
Theft under \$5,000	16,797	29.3	40,545	70.7
Possession of stolen goods	3,808	18.8	16,414	81.2
Fraud	6,356	30.0	14,868	70.1
Total property crimes	29,743	23.2	98,290	76.8
Other Criminal Code				
Prostitution	1,806	47.2	2,017	52.8
Bail violations	12,908	18.5	56,731	81.4
Mischief	1,816	13.1	12,038	86.9
Other	10,543	13.6	67,091	86.4
Total other Criminal Code offences	27,073	16.4	137,877	83.6
Total Criminal Code offences (excluding traffic)	75,805	18.4	334,335	81.5
Other federal statutes				
Drug offences	6,817	14.7	39,638	85.3
Other	789	13.9	4,894	86.1
Total all offences (including traffic)	93,643	17.3	446,413	82.7

Source: *Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report*, p. 178.

In addition:⁸⁶

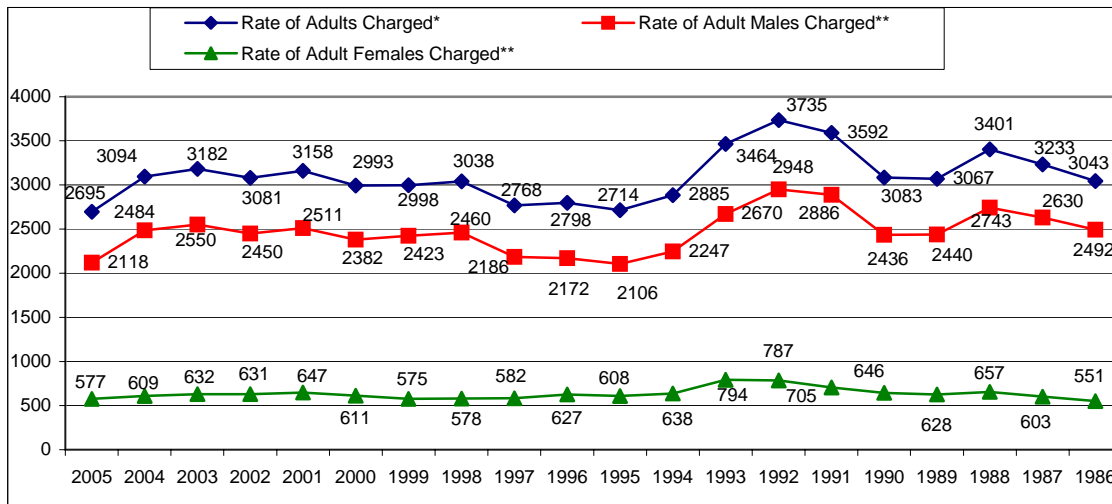
- Six (6%) percent of admissions to the federal corrections system in 2003/04 were females (double that of the 3% percent admitted in 1994/95).
- In 2003/04, 70% of females admitted to sentenced custody spent 31 days or less in prison compared to 54% of sentenced males.

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

- Of individuals on remand in 2003/04, 62% of females spent seven days or less, compared to only 54% of males.
- In all, “women represent a relatively small proportion of those dealt with by the courts, proportionately fewer convictions, and receive shorter prison sentences than men.”⁸⁷

Figure 17 shows the rate of *Criminal Code* charges per 100,000 population⁸⁸ for the City of Edmonton varied from 3,043 in 1986 to 2,695 in 2004.

Figure 17: Rate of *Criminal Code* Charges per 100,000 Population, City of Edmonton, 1986 to 2005



*rate is based on the total Edmonton population, not just the adult population.

** rates are based on total Edmonton population, not the population of men and the population of women.

Source: Edmonton Police Service, private communication.

The rates for City of Edmonton males charged ranged from 2,492 per 100,000 population in 1986 to 2,118 per 100,000 population in 2005 and follows the same rate pattern as that for total adults charged. The rates for City of Edmonton females charged ranged from 551 per 100,000 population in 1986 to 577 per 100,000 population in 2005, and showed less rate variation over the years than the rates for either males or total adults. Note that over the twenty-year period, the rate of males charged for all *Criminal Code* offences varied from 3.5 to 4.5 times the rate of females charged.

⁸⁷ Ibid..

⁸⁸ Population figures and total charges are from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Extranet.

12. ABORIGINAL OFFENDERS

Table 16 shows the percentage of Aboriginal people admitted to correctional services by jurisdiction, as well as the median age of all offenders at admission.⁸⁹

Table 16: Characteristics of Adult Offenders Admitted to Correctional Services by Jurisdiction, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Sentenced custody		Remand		Probation		Conditional Sentences		Total Adult population 2001 % Aboriginal
	% Aboriginal	Median Age	% Aboriginal	Median Age	% Aboriginal	Median Age	% Aboriginal	Median Age	
Newfoundland/Labrador	..	32	..	28	..	32	..	33	3
Prince Edward Island	2	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	1
Nova Scotia	7	32	7	32	7	34	7	32	2
New Brunswick	9	30	8	30	7	30	8	31	2
Quebec	2	36	4	33	7	32	6	34	1
Ontario	9	32	9	31	6	32	8	33	1
Manitoba	68	30	62	29	50	31	44	29	11
Saskatchewan	80	30	77	28	67	29	72	30	10
Alberta	39	31	28	29	24	..	16	..	4
British Columbia	20	31	22	31	19	31	17	34	4
Yukon	73	30	78	30	61	32	66	34	20
Northwest Territories	88	32	85	29	..	..	..	..	45
Nunavut	97	37	97	37	99	..	98	..	78
Provincial/territorial total	21	...	18	...	16	...	19	...	...
Federal total	18	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

.. means information is not available for specific reference period.

... means not applicable.

Source: **Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04**, p. 14.

Also shown is the Aboriginal population as a percentage of total population for the provinces and territories (3%). Overall, Aboriginal people in 2003/04 were over-represented in Canadian correctional services. They accounted for 21% of admissions to provincial/territorial sentenced custody, 18% of admissions to federal custody, 18% of admissions to remand, 16% of probation admissions, and 19% of admissions to conditional sentencing.

“...the representation of Aboriginal people among sentenced custody admissions has increased since 1999/00, from 18% to 21% but has remained stable since 2001/02. The proportions of admissions to probation and remanded custody represented by Aboriginal people have remained relatively stable in recent years.”⁹⁰

⁸⁹ The median age at admission is the age where, if all people are ordered by age, half of the people are younger and half are older.

⁹⁰ **Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04**, op. cit., p. 14.

A recent study of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults involved in Saskatchewan Corrections from 1999/00 to 2003/04 reported that of those who had been released from provincial correctional services in 1999/00, 57% of Aboriginal persons *versus* 28% of non-Aboriginal persons returned by March 31, 2004. “In addition, the study found that the rates of re-involvement increased more rapidly for Aboriginal people than non-Aboriginal people, with 29% of Aboriginal adults *versus* 13% of non-Aboriginal adults returning in the first twelve months.”⁹¹

In addition, “proportional representation of Aboriginal people among females admitted to correctional services has been greater than that for males.”⁹² For example, Aboriginal women in 2003/04 represented 30% of all female admissions to sentenced custody and 27% of female admissions to remand. Aboriginal males over the same period represented 20% of male admissions to sentenced custody and 17% of male admissions to remand.⁹³

13. AGE AND OFFENCES

Table 16 shows the median ages for adult offenders in correctional services in 2003/04 by jurisdiction. The median age for sentenced custody in Canada was 32 years (ranging from 30 years in New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Yukon to 37 years in Nunavut). The median age for adult offenders on remand ranged from 28 years in Newfoundland/Labrador and Saskatchewan to 37 years in Nunavut. The median age for those on probation ranged from 29 years in Saskatchewan to 34 years in Nova Scotia while the median age for admission to conditional sentences ranged from 29 years in Manitoba to 34 years in Quebec, British Columbia, and the Yukon.

“The Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) is a new person-based survey that is...being implemented in several jurisdictions across Canada. Currently, person-level data are available for three jurisdictions: Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.”⁹⁴

⁹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁹² **Juristat: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics**, *Victimization and Offending among the Aboriginal Population in Canada*, Jodi-Anne Brzozowski, Andrea Taylor-Butts, and Sara Johnson, Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 26, no 3, p. 1.

⁹³ **Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04**, *op. cit.*.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

Table 17 shows that of those admitted to correctional services from the three jurisdictions, 4,714 (36.0%) were Aboriginal while 6,369 (48.7) were non-Aboriginal.⁹⁵ Of the total offenders, 86.0% were males, 14.0% were females and the median age was 31.4.years.

Table 17: Gender and Age at First Involvement Admission Date to Correctional Services by Aboriginal Identity; Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan; 2003/04

	Total		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	13,080	100.0	4,714	100.0	6,369	100.0
Sex						
Male	9,522	86.0	3,899	82.8	5,623	88.4
Female	1,551	14.0	810	17.2	741	11.6
Unknown	10		5		5	
Age at first involvement admission date						
Under 18 years	5	0.0	1	0.0	4	0.1
18-9 years	1,057	9.5	528	11.2	529	8.3
20-24 years	2,333	21.1	1,070	22.7	1,263	19.8
25-29 years	1,823	16.5	826	17.5	997	15.7
30-34 years	1,628	14.7	757	16.1	871	13.7
35-39 years	1,493	13.5	667	14.1	826	13.0
40-44 years	1,198	10.8	442	9.4	756	11.9
45-49 years	734	6.6	227	4.8	507	8.0
50+ years	811	7.3	196	4.2	615	9.7
Unknown	1		0		1	
Mean (Standard Deviation) ⁹⁶	32.4	(11.3)	30.6	(9.7)	33.5	(11.8)
Median ⁹⁷	31.0		29.0		32.0	

Source: **Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04**, p. 28.

⁹⁵ Percentage calculations exclude 'unknown' (1,997 or 15.3%).

⁹⁶ The mean is the arithmetic average of a set of numbers. Standard deviation measures the spread of dispersion around the mean of a data set. It is the most widely used measure of spread.

⁹⁷ Median is the value of the middle item when the data are arranged from lowest to highest. The median is the middle value that has exactly half of the data above it and half below it.

B. YOUTH CRIME

14. YOUTH CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT

In 1984, Canada proclaimed the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA) to recognize “the special needs that youth have as a result of their varying levels of maturity, the necessity for youth to accept responsibility for unlawful action, and the right of society to protection from illegal behaviour.”⁹⁸ However, under YOA, the youth incarceration rate was higher than Canada’s adult incarceration rate and one of the highest in the western countries.

As a result, the *Youth Justice Renewal Initiative* (YJRI) was introduced. “Beginning in 1998, the YJRI introduced several measures to address the limitations of the YOA including increased federal funding to the provinces and territories, the development of new community programs and infrastructures, and increased public awareness and education in an effort to promote the rehabilitation and reintegration of young persons into the community.”⁹⁹

In addition, on April 1, 2003, Canada replaced the *Young Offenders Act* with the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) in order to “provide a fairer and more effective youth justice system.”¹⁰⁰ The YCJA applies to youth aged 12 to 17 years and encourages alternatives (i.e., warnings, diversion programs, family conferences) instead of formal charges for lesser crimes. These alternatives are intended to provide youth with a sense of responsibility and accountability for their actions, as well as to demonstrate to them the impact their crime has on victims and the community.

Since the introduction of YCJA, “the proportion of apprehended youths who are formally charged by police has dropped from 56% in 2002 (pre-YCJA) to 43% in 2005 (post-YCJA).”¹⁰¹ In addition, from 2004 to 2005:

“...the youth crime rate, as measured by the number of youths formally charged plus youths cleared by means other than the laying of a charge, dropped 6%. Youth violent crime dropped 2%, while youth property crime was down 12%.”¹⁰²

⁹⁸ **Juristat: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics**, Youth Court Statistics, 2003/04, Jennifer Thomas, Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 25, no. 4, p. 2.

⁹⁹ **The Daily**, Youth Correctional Services: Key indicators, 2003/04, Thursday, December 1, 2005, p. 2.

¹⁰⁰ **New Youth Justice Law Receives Royal Assent**, Department of Justice, Canada, Ottawa, February 19, 2002.

¹⁰¹ **Juristat: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics**, Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005, Maire Gannon, Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 26, no. 4, p. 12.

¹⁰² **Ibid.**, p. 1.

15. NATIONAL CRIME RATES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

“Young persons charged by the police have been gradually declining for the past decade. The YCJA allows police greater discretion to divert young persons from the judicial process. From 1997 to 2002, the rate of young persons charged decreased 13%. From 2002 to 2003, the rate of young persons charged decreased 12%, while the rate of young persons not charged increased 22%.¹⁰³

Figure 18 shows that the rate of youths charged per 100,000 population with all criminal incidents in Canada decreased from 4,927.5 in 1997 to 3,297.9 in 2005 (33.1%).

Figure 18: Rate per 100,000 Population of Youth Charged with All Criminal Incidents, Canada, 1997-2005

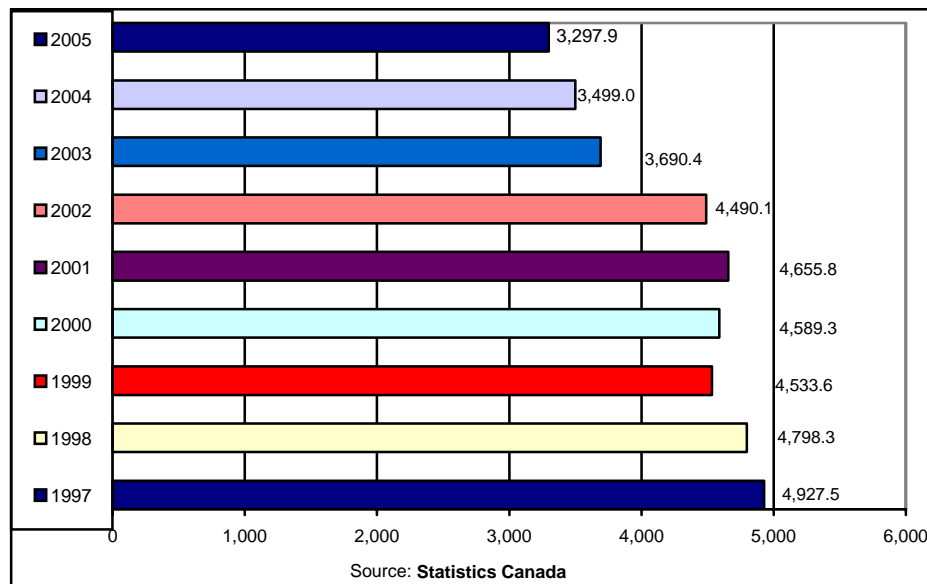


Table 18 shows the change of rate by type of offence for youths charged per 100,000 population from 2001 to 2005.

¹⁰³ **Juristat: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics**, Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2003/04, Donna Calverley, Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 26, no. 2, p. 5.

Table 18: Rate of Youth Charged per 100,000 Population of Youth by Type of Offence, Canada, 2000-2005						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All incidents	4,589.3	4,655.8	4,490.1	3,690.4	3,499.0	3,297.9
<i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excluding traffic offences)	4,074.8	4,117.5	3,917.0	3,275.1	3,041.2	2,864.2
Crimes of violence	915.3	947.0	919.0	805.7	779.1	782.4
Homicide	1.7	1.3	1.7	2.2	1.7	2.5
Attempted murder	2.2	2.8	2.3	2.6	1.9	1.8
Assaults (level 1 to 3)	663.0	681.7	669.9	569.8	552.5	549.0
Sexual Assault	68.4	65.2	64.3	57.4	53.6	48.2
Other sexual offences	6.2	6.4	6.2	5.1	5.0	5.6
Robbery	131.9	145.4	130.7	125.6	119.8	128.5
Other crimes of violence ¹⁰⁴	41.9	44.3	44.0	43.0	44.6	46.7
Property crimes	1,869.0	1,811.3	1,713.8	1,348.1	1,181.2	1,045.1
Breaking and entering	506.3	484.0	449.6	433.1	383.5	316.9
Motor vehicle theft	230.5	246.6	219.7	191.5	169.0	127.4
Theft over \$5,000	11.9	11.9	11.6	9.3	7.0	8.3
Theft \$5,000 and under	812.1	768.0	739.0	468.7	387.3	372.9
Possession of stolen goods	225.5	222.4	225.7	190.8	186.7	175.9
Frauds	82.7	78.4	68.2	54.6	47.7	43.6
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	1,290.6	1,359.2	1,284.1	1,121.3	1,080.9	1,036.7
<i>Criminal Code</i> offences (traffic offences)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Impaired driving	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic offences ¹⁰⁵	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Federal statutes	514.5	538.3	573.1	415.3	457.8	433.7
Drugs	316.6	343.1	337.8	210.0	233.0	221.2
Other federal statutes	197.9	195.3	235.3	205.3	224.8	212.5

Source: **Persons Charged by Type of Offence (Rate, Youths Charged).**

<http://www40.statcan.ca/l01/cst01/legal14b.htm?sdi=youth%20crime%20rate>

Figure 19 shows that with respect to violent crime in Canada, the rate per 100,000 population of youth charged decreased from 909 in 1997 to 782 in 2005 (13.9%). During this period of time, the rate of youth violent crime actually decreased to 861 per 100,000 in 1999, then peaked at 947 per 100,000 in 2001, prior to decreasing to 782 in 2005.

¹⁰⁴ Includes unlawfully causing bodily harm, discharging firearms with intent, abductions, assaults against police officers, assaults against other peace or public officers, and other assaults.

¹⁰⁵ Includes dangerous operation of motor vehicle, boat, vessel, or aircraft; dangerous operation of motor vehicle, boat, vessel or aircraft causing bodily harm or death; driving motor vehicle while prohibited; and failure to stop or remain.

Figure 19: Rate per 100,000 Population of Youth Charged with Crimes of Violence, Canada, 1997-2005

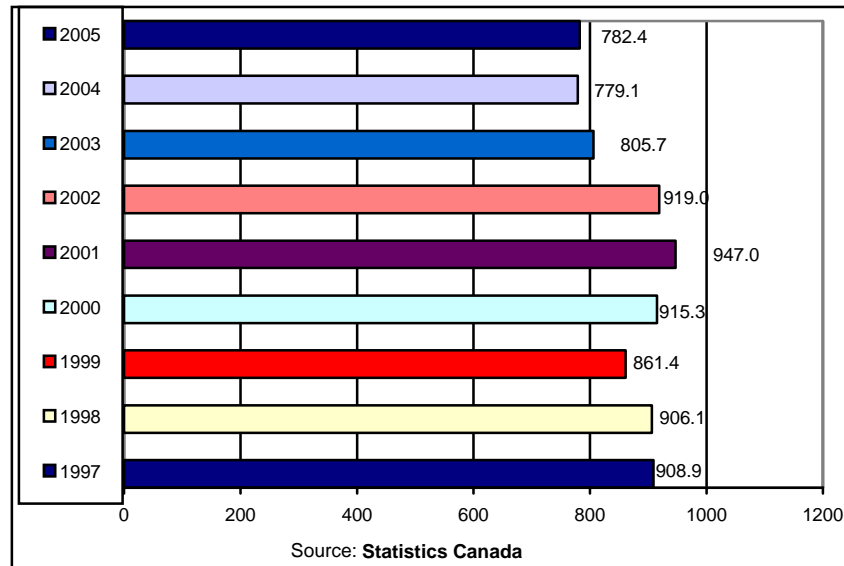
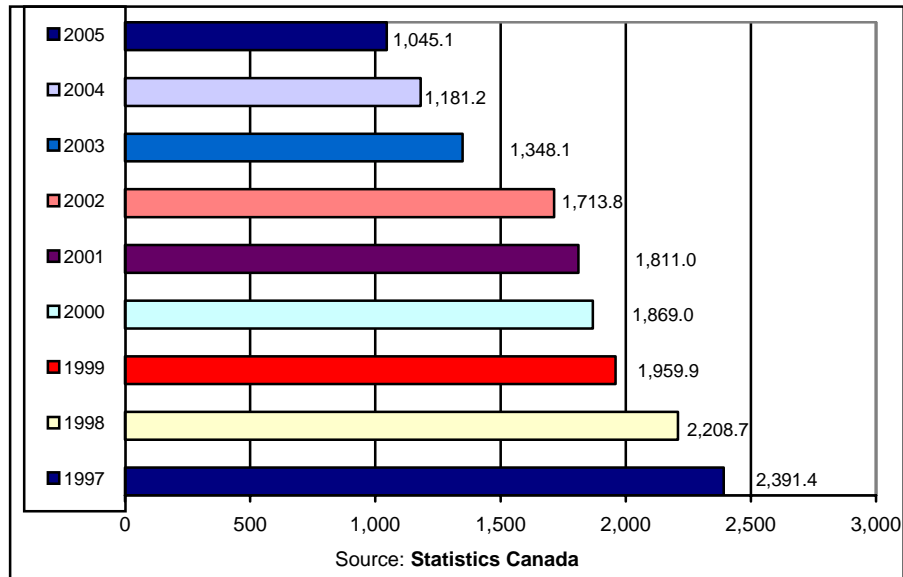


Figure 20 shows that with respect to property crime in Canada, the rate per 100,000 of youth charged decreased from 2,391.4 in 1997 to 1,045.1 in 2005 (56.3%).

Figure 20: Rate per 100,000 Youth Charged with Property Crimes, Canada, 1997-2005

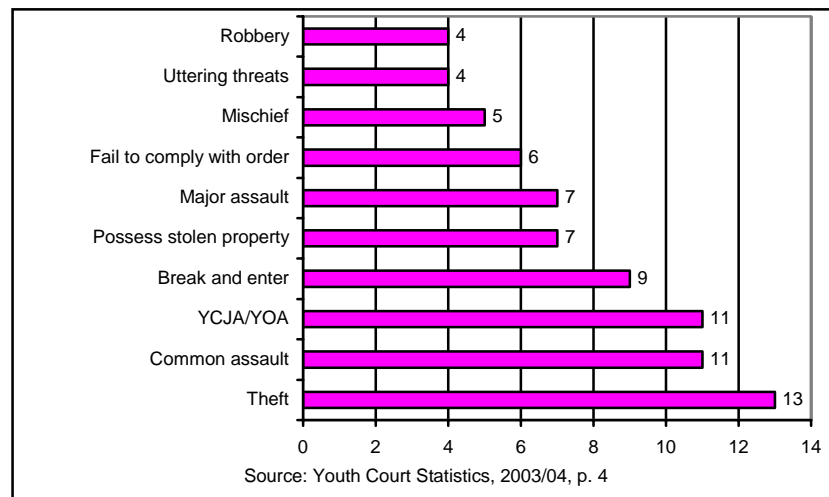


“Youth courts in Canada processed 70,465 cases involving 191,302 charges in 2003/04. The large majority of cases (82%) had a *Criminal*

Code charge as the most serious offence in the case. The types of cases processed in youth courts most often involved *Crimes against property* (36%) and *Crimes against the person* (29%).¹⁰⁶

Figure 21 shows that of the offences committed by youth in 2003/04, ten types of offences accounted for three quarters of cases. Three of the most frequent offences were theft (13%), break and enter (9%), and possession of stolen property (7%) – all *Crimes against property*. Other offences were: common assault (11%), failure to comply with a disposition under YCJA/YOA (11%), major assault (7%), failure to comply with an order (6%), mischief (5%), and uttering threats and robbery (both 4%).

Figure 21: Percentages of Ten Offences Accounting for Three Quarters of Youth Court Caseload, Canada, 2003/04



In 2005, Statistics Canada reported that from 2004:

“...the youth crime rate increased for the most serious violent offences: homicide (+47%), attempted murder (+11%), aggravated assault (+6%) and robbery (+9%).¹⁰⁷ Decreases were seen in common assaults and sexual assault.”¹⁰⁸

Table 19 shows that 33,756 youths were admitted to supervised correctional services in 2003/04. Of all youth admitted, 52.0% were to custody while 48.0% were to probation. Of those admitted to custody, 72.3% were admitted remand

¹⁰⁶ Youth Court Statistics, 2003/04, op. cit., p. 2.

¹⁰⁷ Note that the numbers for these offences are, for the most part, very small, and therefore very volatile.

¹⁰⁸ Crime Statistics in Canada, 2005, op. cit., p. 13.

and 27.7% to sentenced custody (of which 53.1% went to secure custody and 46.9% to open custody).

Table 19: Admission of Young People to Canada's Correctional System by Jurisdiction, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Secure custody	Open custody	Total sentenced custody	Remand	Total custody	Probation	Total correctional services
Total¹⁰⁹	2,579	2,282	4,861	12,685	17,546	16,210	33,756
Newfoundland/Labrador	108	76	184	202	386	235	621
Prince Edward Island	11	8	19	17	36	133	169
Nova Scotia	20	140	160	188	348	771	1,119
New Brunswick ¹¹⁰	125	119	244	295	539	439	978
Quebec	651	415	1,066	1,487	2,553	4,014	6,567
Ontario 12 to 15 year olds	406	525	931	..	...	5,044	...
Ontario 16 and 17 year olds	812	709	1,521	5,640	7,161	6,047	13,308
Manitoba	113	261	374	1,539	1,913	788	2,701
Saskatchewan	239	256	495	..	...	1,339	...
Alberta ¹¹¹	497	239	736	2,016	2,752	2,119	4,871
British Columbia	242	315	557	1,301	1,858	1,664	3,522
Yukon	x	8	...	23	...	20	...
Northwest Territories	18	20	38	24	62	..	...
Nunavut	13	11	24	25	49	..	...

.. means not available for a specific reference period.

... means not applicable.

X means suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*.

Source: **Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada**, p. 3.

“On average, 1,340 young people were in sentenced custody on any given day in Canada in 2003/04. This included 720 young persons [53.7%] in secure custody and 620 [46.3%] in open custody.”¹¹²

16. PROVINCIAL DISPOSITION RATES FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS

Table 20 shows that the rate of total sentenced custody for youth per 10,000 populations was 5.4 in 2003/04. The rate of remand for youth per 10,000

¹⁰⁹ Note: Total excludes Ontario 12 to 15 year olds, Saskatchewan, the Yukon, and Nunavut.

¹¹⁰ Data have been tabulated from the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) microdata.

¹¹¹ Prior to 2003/04, Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) units of count for Alberta were generated by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics from microdata supplied by the jurisdiction. In 2003/04, these counts were generated locally. Accordingly, caution should be used when comparing 2003/04 data to prior years.

¹¹² **Youth Correctional Services: Key Indicators, 2003/04**, op. cit., p. 1.

populations was 2.0, while the rates for secure custody and open custody per 10,000 youths were 3.0 and 2.4, respectively.

Table 20: Young People Incarcerated in Remand, Secure, and Open Custody per 10,000 Youth Population, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Remand	Total sentenced custody	Secure custody	Open custody
TOTAL	2.0	5.4	3.0	2.4
Newfoundland/Labrador	2.1	10.7	6.7	4.0
Prince Edward Island	1.1	5.0	2.7	2.4
Nova Scotia	2.5	7.5	1.6	6.0
New Brunswick	2.1	10.5	5.1	5.3
Quebec	1.1	3.8	2.6	1.3
Ontario ¹¹³	..	4.2	2.2	2.0
Manitoba	9.0	10.3	4.2	6.1
Saskatchewan	7.9	20.3	12.4	7.9
Alberta	3.1	5.2	3.0	2.2
British Columbia	1.9	2.8	1.1	1.6
Yukon	3.6	10.0	3.1	6.9
Northwest Territories	8.3	51.8	24.0	27.7
Nunavut	14.8	12.6	5.9	6.7

.. means not available for a specific reference period.

Source: **Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2003/04**, p. 20.

“The rate of young persons in sentenced custody decreased from 14.1 in 1994/95 to 10.6 in 2002/03, it then declined by half in 2003/04 -- to 5.4.

From 2002/03 to 2003/04, the average daily count of young people in sentenced custody decreased in all jurisdictions, although this decrease was quite variable. It ranged from 24% in Saskatchewan to 68% in Ontario.”¹¹⁴

17. EDMONTON’S YOUTH CRIME

Table 21 shows the number of *Criminal Code* and non-*Criminal Code* actual offences in 2005 for City of Edmonton youth, as well as the number of youth charges for each type of offence.

¹¹³ Ontario is excluded from the remand incarceration rates.

¹¹⁴ **Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2003/04**, op. cit., p. 11.

Table 21: Number of Criminal Code and Non-Criminal Code Offences, Number of Youth Charges, City of Edmonton, 2005

	Actual Offences ¹¹⁵	Youth Charges
Criminal Code Offences –Total (Including Traffic)	92,358	5,151
VIOLENT CRIME -- TOTAL	6,718	709
Homicide	39	4
Attempted murder	6	0
Sexual assault	393	20
Non-sexual assault	4,756	517
Other sexual offences	89	7
Abduction	14	0
Robbery	1,421	161
PROPERTY CRIME -- TOTAL	54,520	2,144
Break and enter attempts-Total	8,713	232
Residential	3,655	159
Business	2,187	41
Other	2,871	32
Motor vehicle theft and attempts	9,561	107
Theft over \$5,000	398	0
Theft \$5,000 and under	29,043	1,367
Have stolen goods	2,379	349
Fraud	4,426	89
OTHER CRIME – TOTAL	26,888	2,225
Prostitution	477	4
Gaming and Betting	2	0
Offensive weapons	1,101	183
Other Criminal Code	25,308	2,038
CRIMINAL CODE TRAFFIC -- TOTAL	4,232	73
NON-CRIMINAL CODE OFFENCES -- TOTAL	251,801	714
DRUGS – TOTAL	1,492	195
Heroin	0	0
Cocaine	589	70
Cannabis	471	102
...Methamphetamine	299	17
Other controlled drugs	133	6
OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES -- TOTAL	87	68
PROVINCIAL ACTS – TOTAL	246,740	396
Liquor Act	4,332	56
Hazardous traffic	211,168	158
Non-hazardous traffic	29,199	11
Other provincial statutes	2,041	171
MUNICIPAL BYLAWS -- TOTAL	3,482	55

¹¹⁵ When a crime is reported to police, the offence is counted as a reported incident. Police then conduct a preliminary investigation to determine the validity of the report. Occasionally, a crime reported to the police proves to be unfounded. Unfounded incidents are subtracted from the number of reported offences to produce “actual offences.”

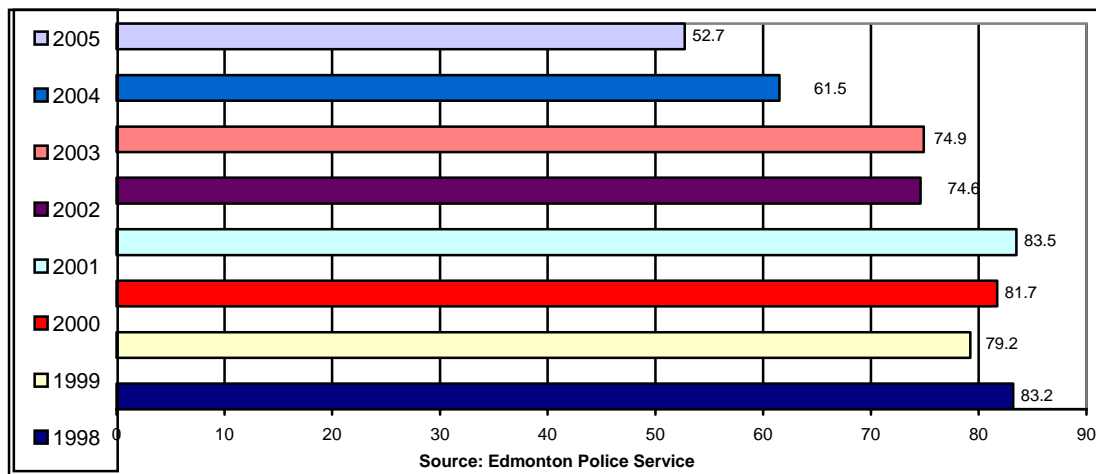
Source: **Edmonton Police Service Statistical Report Year-to-Date December 2005**,
(revised March 30, 2006), p. 5.

Table 22 and Figure 22 show the rates of youth *Criminal Code* charges and alternative measures per 1,000 youth aged 12 to 17 years in the City of Edmonton ranged from 83.2 in 1998 to 52.7 in 2005 – a decrease of 36.7%.

Table 22: Rates of Youth <i>Criminal Code</i> Charges and Alternative Measures per 1,000 People Aged 12 to 17, City of Edmonton, 1998 to 2005¹¹⁶			
Year	Incidents	Population¹¹⁷	Rate
1998	7,111	85,454	83.2
1999	6,682	84,392	79.2
2000	7,132	87,312	81.7
2001	7,708	89,400	86.2
2002	6,961	88,889	78.3
2003	7,159	88,920	80.5
2004	6,068	88,688	68.4
2005	4,907	93,061	52.7

Source: **Edmonton Police Service**, private communication.

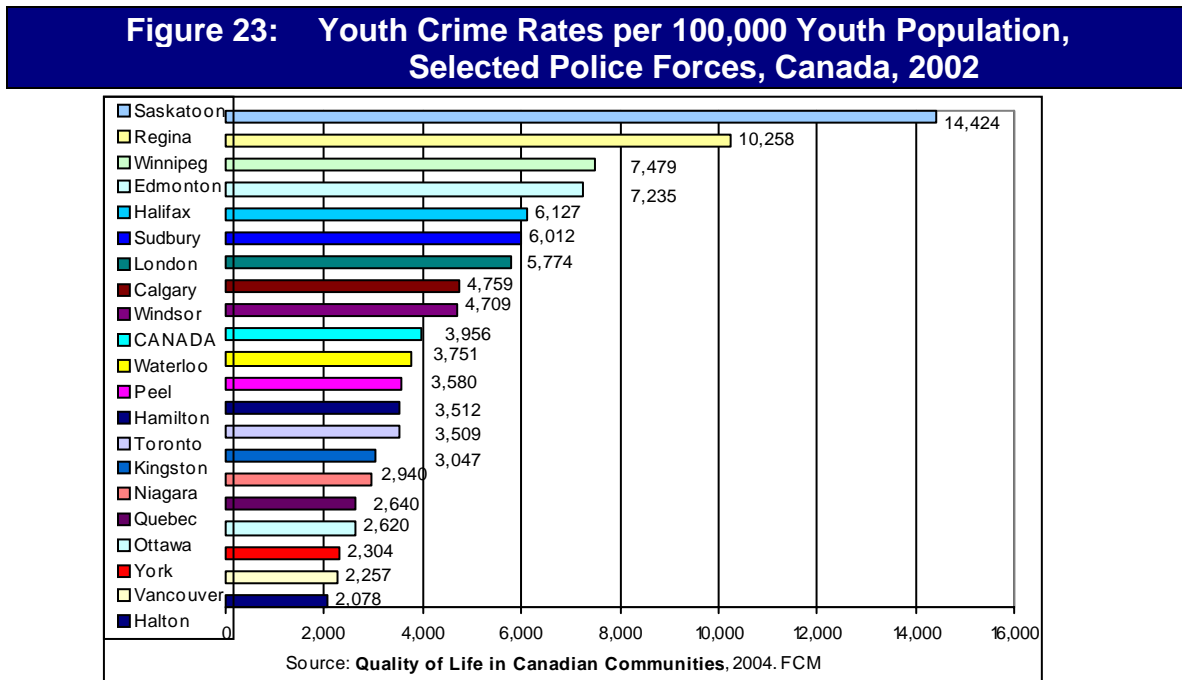
Figure 22: Rates of Youth *Criminal Code* Charges and Alternative Measures per 1,000 People Aged 12 to 17, City of Edmonton, 1998 to 2005



¹¹⁶ PROBE Person Data files filtered for Accused and Alternative Measures persons aged 12-17 with *Criminal Code* offences.

¹¹⁷ Population figures are for youth aged 10 to 19 years.

Figure 23 shows the rate of youth charged per 100,000 youth population in 2002 for selected police forces¹¹⁸. Edmonton's rate was 7,235, significantly higher than Calgary's rate of 4,759, and the fourth highest of the (selected) municipalities. Saskatoon at 14,424 per 100,000 youth population had the highest rate; Halton at 2,078 per 10,000 youth population reported the lowest.



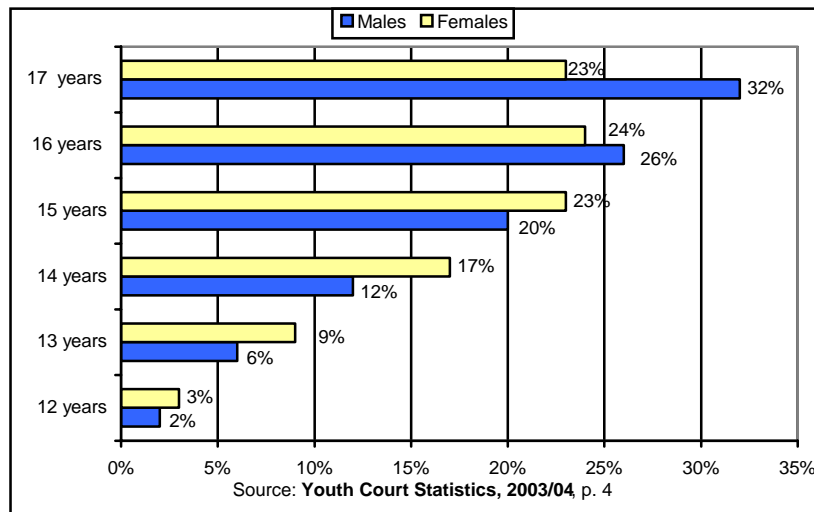
18. GENDER AND YOUTH CRIME

Figure 24 shows that in 2003/2004, the proportion of youth court caseload for males increased with age; the proportion of youth caseload for females, however, leveled off after age 15 years. The total national youth court caseload was 70,465 (55,550, males [78.8%]; 14,915, females [21.2%]). The highest percentage of males was aged 17 years (32% of male youth caseload), while the highest percentage of females was aged 16 years (24% of female youth caseload).

Note that in 2003/04, “males accounted for 79% of youth court cases and... predominated in all age groups;” in addition, “16-year-olds accounted for 26% of cases and 17-years-olders made up 30%.”¹¹⁹

¹¹⁸ (municipalities participating in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Quality of Life Reporting System)

¹¹⁹ Youth Court Statistics, 2003/04, op. cit., p. 4.

Figure 24: Percentage of Youth Caseload by Gender, Canada, 2003/04¹²⁰

“Women between the ages of 15 and 18 years old have much higher levels of criminal activity than adult women. In 2004, there were 2,898 crimes for every 100,000 women 15 to 18, compared with a rate of 631 per 100,000 among women aged 19 and over. In fact, women aged 15 to 18 committed 22% of all property offences and 19% of violent offences that year, whereas they only represented 5% of the total population.”¹²¹

19. ABORIGINAL YOUNG OFFENDERS

Figure 25 shows that approximately one in five youths admitted to sentenced custody in 2003/04 was Aboriginal. Of youth in open custody, 20.4% were Aboriginal; in secure custody, 20.9% were Aboriginal; on probation, 11.9%; and in deferred custody, 19.0%. Approximately the same percentages of males and females were admitted to the correctional services listed in Figure 24, with the exception of probation in which female Aboriginal youth (16.3%) had a higher representation than male Aboriginal youth (10.7%). Note also that the Aboriginal youth population as a percentage of all youth aged 12 to 17 years was 4.5%.¹²²

¹²⁰ Note: excludes 1,050 cases (1.5%) where the accused was older than 17 years or the age was unknown.

¹²¹ *Women in Canada: A Gender-based Statistical Report*, op. cit., p. 169.

¹²² *Victimization and Offending among the Aboriginal Population in Canada*, op. cit., p. 14.

Figure 25: Aboriginal Youth Representation in Admission to Correctional Services, Canada, 2003/04

Table 23 shows how Aboriginal admission to remand, open custody, secure custody, and probation varied among the provinces and territories. “In 2003/04, the provinces with the highest Aboriginal representation among youths admitted to custodial and community programs compared to their provincial youth populations were Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.”¹²³

Table 23: Percentage of Youth Admissions¹²⁴ to Remand, Open Custody, Secure Custody, and Probation Accounted for by Aboriginal Youth, by Jurisdiction, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Remand	Open custody	Secure custody	Probation	Total youth population
Newfoundland/Labrador	3.0	8.6	8.0	4.4	5.3
Prince Edward Island	..	..	..	..	1.4
Nova Scotia	5.9	7.6	0.0	6.3	2.7
New Brunswick	5.1	4.2	7.3	7.5	3.0
Quebec	..	..	..	..	1.6
Ontario	..	8.3	11.1	6.2	2.2
Manitoba	71.0	81.2	76.8	55.8	19.0
Saskatchewan	..	83.5	74.8	65.0	19.3
Alberta	38.6	43.5	37.0	29.4	7.5
British Columbia	35.5	35.5	31.8	28.5	6.6
Yukon	91.3	100.0	100.0	83.3	25.9
Northwest Territories	87.5	100.0	83.3	..	62.7
Nunavut	100.0	100.0	100.0	..	94.8

.. means not available for a specific reference period.

Source: **Victimization and Offending among the Aboriginal Population in Canada**, p. 30.

¹²³ **Ibid..**

¹²⁴ Youth represents the population aged 12 to 17 years.

20. EDMONTON'S YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Edmonton has one Young Offender Centre in northwest Edmonton with a capacity for 194 offenders. In addition, there are four group homes with a total capacity of 44:

- Catholic Social Services Group Home with a capacity of 14;
- Counterpoint House (sex offender treatment program) with a capacity of 8;
- Howard House Group Home with a capacity of 12; and
- Kochee Mena Group Home with a capacity of 10.

C. COSTS OF JUSTICE

21. JUSTICE SPENDING IN CANADA

Table 24 shows that spending on justice in 2000/01 was just over \$11 billion – 60.7% for policing, 9.4% for the courts, 5.3% for legal aid plans, 21.6% for adult corrections, and 3.0% for prosecutions.

Table 24: Justice Spending in Canada in \$ Millions, 2000/01 to 2004/05					
	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Police	6,798	7,270	7,827	8,324	8,823
Courts ¹²⁵	1,048	..	1,151	..	..
Legal aid plans ¹²⁶	593	583	603	608	..
Adult corrections	2,422	2,620	2,745	2,719	..
Prosecutions ¹²⁷	337	..	352	..	..

.. means not available for a specific period of time.

Source: **Statistics Canada.**

Justice spending increased in 2002/03 by 13.2% to just over \$12.6 billion – 61.7% for policing, 9.1% for the courts, 4.8% for legal aid plans, 21.6% for adult corrections, and 2.8% for prosecutions. Note that from 2000/01 to 2004/05 policing costs increased by 29.8%.

¹²⁵ Courts Personnel and Expenditure Survey and the Prosecutions Personnel and Expenditure Survey have been discontinued. 2002-2003 represents the last available data for these surveys. Both surveys are biennial surveys, therefore, figures are not available immediately preceding and following the reference period.

¹²⁶ These expenditures represent spending by legal aid plans only and may not equal government contributions to legal aid plans in a given year.

¹²⁷ See footnote 113.

22. COST OF FEDERAL INCARCERATION

Table 25 shows that of the \$2.719 billion spent for correctional services in Canada in 2003/04, more than half (53.2%) was for the federal system; the remaining 46.8% was for the provincial/territorial systems. The largest expenditure in both the federal and provincial/territorial systems (\$1.968 billion) was custodial services (66.7% of federal expenditures and 78.7% of provincial/territorial expenditures).

Table 25: Operating Expenditures of the Adult Correctional System, Canada, 2003/04

Jurisdiction	Current \$\$\$									
	Custodial services		Community supervision services		Headquarters and central services		National Parole Board or provincial pb's ¹²⁸		Total	Per capita cost ¹²⁹
	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000	%	\$'000	\$
Federal expenditures ¹³⁰	967,590	66.8	157,199	10.9	286,958	19.8	35,700	2.5	1,447,446	45.76
Provincial and territorial expenditures ¹³¹	1,000,838	78.7	211,349	16.6	53,084	4.2	6,685	0.5	1,271,957	40.21
Total expenditures¹³²	1,968,428	72.4	368,548	13.6	340,042	12.5	42,385	1.6	2,719,403	85.98

Source: *Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04*, p. 30.

Expenditures for headquarters and central services for the federal system were significantly higher than for the provincial/territorial system (19.8% for the former, 4.2% for the latter) while the provincial/territorial system spent a larger proportion (16.6%) on community supervision services than did the federal system (10.9%).

Lastly, the cost of Canada's adult correctional system was \$85.98 *per capita* for the 2003/04 fiscal year (\$45.76 for the federal system; \$40.21 for the provincial/territorial systems).

¹²⁸ Federal expenditures include Correctional Service Canada and National Parole Board, but exclude CORCAN.

¹²⁹ Capital costs have been excluded from all jurisdictions' expenditures.

¹³⁰ Provincial parole boards operate in Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia.

¹³¹ Per capita cost is total cost of correctional services divided by total Canadian population.

¹³² Excludes all data from Prince Edward Island.

23. COST OF PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL CUSTODY

Table 26 shows the operating expenditures and average daily cost of persons in provincial/territorial custody in Canada from 1994/95 to 2003/04 compared to constant 1992/93 dollars.

“Between 2002/03 and 2003/04, the average constant dollar inmate cost in the provinces and territories decreased by 3%. The average constant dollar inmate cost in 2003/04 was 1% lower than in 1999/00. In the federal system, the average daily federal inmate cost did not change from 2002/03.”¹³³

Table 26: Operating Expenditures and Average Daily Cost of Persons in Provincial/territorial Custody, Constant 1992/93 Dollars, 1994/95 to 2003/04, Canada^{134,135}					
	Current dollars		Constant 1992/93 dollars		
	Operating expenses	Average daily inmate cost	Operating expenses	Average daily inmate cost	
	\$'000	\$	\$'000	\$	% change
1994/95	812,580	112.92	797,568	110.81	..
1995/96	805,317	112.13	773,874	107.71	-2.8
1996/97	825,386	116.35	779,618	109.87	2.0
1997/98	848,837	123.29	791,050	114.90	4.6
1998/99 ¹³⁶	848,547	121.49	783,454	112.18	...
1999/00	883,132	130.07	797,856	117.50	4.7
2000/01	911,564	133.36	801,448	117.29	-0.2
2001/02	938,559	133.92	807,233	115.15	-1.8
2002/03	1,022,477	142.88	853,953	119.37	3.7
2003/04	1,000,838	141.75	830,538	116.19	-2.7
% change from 1999/00 to 2003/04	...	...	2.8	-1.1	...

... means not applicable.

Source: **Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04**, p. 17.

“Federal inmates are typically more costly to house than inmates in the provincial/territorial system. On average \$240.18 per day was spent on a federal inmate compared to \$141.75 per day at the provincial/territorial level in 2003/04. This difference...is the result of a number of factors, including the higher levels of security required in the federal system as

¹³³ **Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04, op. cit.**, p. 15.

¹³⁴ Daily inmate cost is calculated by dividing the operational expenditures by the ‘total days stayed.’ ‘Total days stay’ is based on the average daily (actual in-) counts of inmates multiplied by the number of days in the year. Custodial Services operating costs constitute total operating expenditures for government facilities as well as purchased services related to institutional activities.

¹³⁵ Due to missing data for some years, data from Prince Edward Island has been excluded for all years.

¹³⁶ Prior to 1998/99, the institutional operating costs excluded purchased services. Because of this change in methodology, the percentage change in average daily inmate cost between 1997/98 and 1998/99 has not been calculated.

well as the higher costs of incarceration associated with federally sentenced female offenders. In addition, there may be an increased number of treatment programs available to offenders serving longer sentences associated with federal custody.”¹³⁷

D. VICTIMIZATION

24. RATES OF VICTIMIZATION

“Criminal victimization is a frightening and unsettling experience for many Canadians. It is unpredictable, largely unpreventable and often unexpected. Unlike normal life experiences, victimization is not sought out and never welcomed. It is debilitating and demoralizing. Its effects can be often long-term and difficult to overcome.”¹³⁸

For its 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) program, Statistics Canada conducted telephone interviews with approximately 24,000 people aged 15 years and older residing in Canada’s ten provinces. Included in the GSS was a survey on victimization designed to gather “information on the extent and nature of self-reported criminal victimization, the impact and consequences of the crime to the victim, reporting to the police, and the use of formal and informal services. Information was also collected on fear of crime, and public perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system.”¹³⁹

Questions were asked regarding violent crimes (sexual assault,¹⁴⁰ robbery,¹⁴¹ and assault¹⁴²), household crimes (break and enter,¹⁴³ motor vehicle/parts theft,¹⁴⁴ theft of household property,¹⁴⁵ and vandalism¹⁴⁶), and theft of personal property.¹⁴⁷

¹³⁷ **Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04, op. cit.,** p. 15.

¹³⁸ **The Impact of Victimization, op. cit..**

¹³⁹ **Juristat: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics**, Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004, Maire Gannon and Karen Mihorean, Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 85-002-XPE, Vol. 25, no.7, p. 2.

¹⁴⁰ Sexual assault is defined as ‘forced sexual activity, an attempt of forced sexual activity, or unwanted sexual touching, grabbing, kissing, or fondling.’ (All definitions for the 2004 GSS on victimization are from **Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004, op. cit.,** p. 3 and are based on *Criminal Code* definitions).

¹⁴¹ ‘Theft or attempted theft in which the perpetrator had a weapon or there was violence or threat of violence against the victim.’

¹⁴² Physical assault is ‘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.’

¹⁴³ ‘Illegal entry or attempted entry into a residence or other building on the victim’s property.’

¹⁴⁴ ‘Theft or attempted theft of a car, truck, van, motorcycle, moped, or other vehicle or part of a motor vehicle.’

¹⁴⁵ ‘Theft or attempted theft of household property such as liquor, bicycles, electronic equipment, tools, or appliances.’

¹⁴⁶ ‘Wilful damage of personal or household property.’

¹⁴⁷ ‘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).

Table 27 shows that Alberta had the highest rate among the provinces of violent victimization in 2004, 160 incidents per 1,000 population of people aged 15+ years, followed by Nova Scotia at 157 incidents per 1,000 population.

Table 27: Number of Incidents and Rate of Victimization per 1,000 Population Aged 15+ Years by Province, 2004^{148,149}

	Canada	NL	PEI	NS	NB	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	BC
<i>Number of incidents (000s)</i>											
Total violent	2,751	38^E	9^E	122	72	365	1,124	128	106	410	378
Sexual assault	546	8 ^E	F	31 ^E	11 ^E	67 ^E	253	32	17	54	72
Robbery	274	F	F	13 ^E	F	45 ^E	111 ^E	18	13	42	20
Physical assault	1,931	28 ^E	F	78	52 ^E	252	759	78	75	315	286
Theft of personal property	2,408	24	11^E	65	54	358	1,032	98	76	247	443
<i>Number of incidents (000s)</i>											
Total household	3,206	27	9	91	53	476	1,119	186	168	414	663
Break and enter	505	4 ^E	1 ^E	13	7	97	163	34	31	57	97
Motor vehicle/parts theft	571	5 ^E	1 ^E	17	9	94	183	32	26	73	132
Theft of household property	1,136	8	4 ^E	32 ^E	22	154	414	63	61	150	229
Vandalism	993	10	3 ^E	29 ^E	15	132	359	58	50	135	205
<i>Rate per 1,000 population 15+</i>											
Total violent	106	87^E	78^E	157	116	59	112	139	134	160	108
Sexual assault	21	19 ^E	F	40 ^E	18 ^E	11 ^E	25	35 ^E	21 ^E	21 ^E	21 ^E
Robbery	11	F	F	17 ^E	F	7 ^E	11 ^E	20 ^E	17 ^E	16 ^E	6 ^E
Physical assault	75	65 ^E	F	101	83 ^E	41	76	85	96	123	82
Theft of personal property	93	55	95^E	84	87	58	103	106	96	97	127
<i>Rate per 1,000 households</i>											
Total household	248	127	158	232	169	147	233	403	406	331	376
Break and enter	39	18 ^E	21 ^E	34	22	30	34	73	76	46	55
Motor vehicle/parts theft	44	25 ^E	21 ^E	42	27	29	38	69	63	58	75
Theft of household property	88	39	69 ^E	82 ^E	71	47	86	136	147	120	130
Vandalism	77	46	48 ^E	73 ^E	49	41	75	125	120	108	116

^E means use with caution.

F means too unreliable to be published.

Source: **Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004**, p. 21.

Quebec at 59 per 1,000 population of individuals 15+ years had the lowest 2004 violent victimization rate. Note that, in general, rates of violent victimization were

¹⁴⁸ Includes all incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

¹⁴⁹ Excludes data from the territories.

significantly higher for the western provinces than the eastern provinces. In addition:

- Saskatchewan (406 per 1,000 households) and Manitoba (403 per 1,000 households) had the highest rates of household victimization incidents.
- Newfoundland/Labrador had the lowest rate of household victimization incidents (127 per 1,000), followed by Quebec (147 per 1,000).
- Rates of household victimization, like violent victimization, tended to higher in the western, than eastern, provinces.
- Overall in Canada in 2004, there were 8.365 million incidents of victimization (2.751 million violent victimizations [32.9%]; 2.408 million theft of personal property incidents [28.8%]; and, 3.206 million household victimizations [38.3%]).
- The rate for theft of personal property per 1,000 individuals aged 15+ was highest in British Columbia (127) and lowest in Newfoundland/Labrador (55). The Canadian rate was 93 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years.
- The Canadian rates for violent victimizations and household victimizations were 106 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years and 248 per 1,000 households, respectively.

Figure 26 shows that the rates of violent victimization changed little from the 1999 GSS to the 2004 GSS. Overall during this period, total violent crimes decreased from 111 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years to 106, as did physical assault (from 81 per 1,000 population 15+ years to 75). Robbery increased slightly from 9 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years to 11, while sexual assault remained constant (21 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years).

Figure 26: Rates per 100,000 Population of Violent Victimization, 15 Years and Over, Canada, 2004

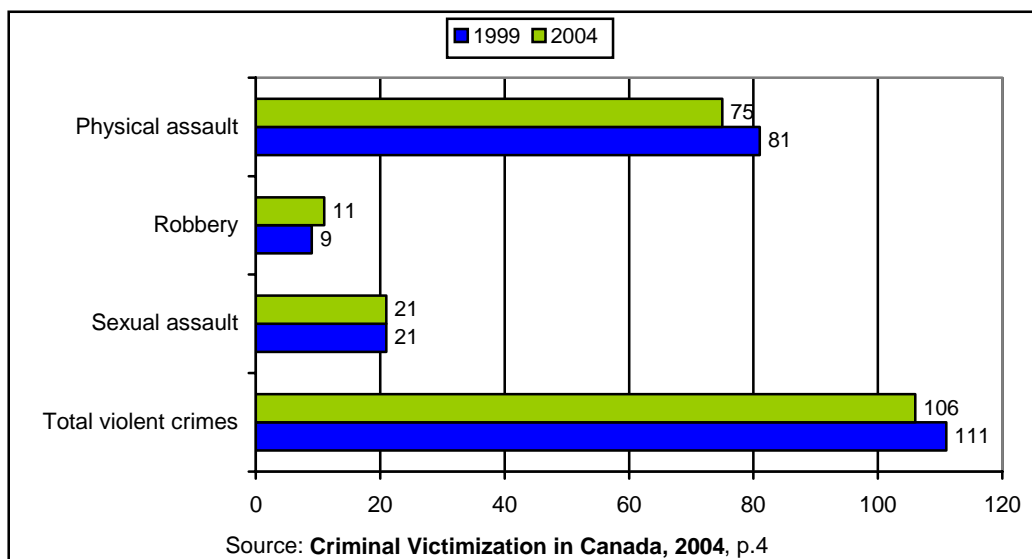
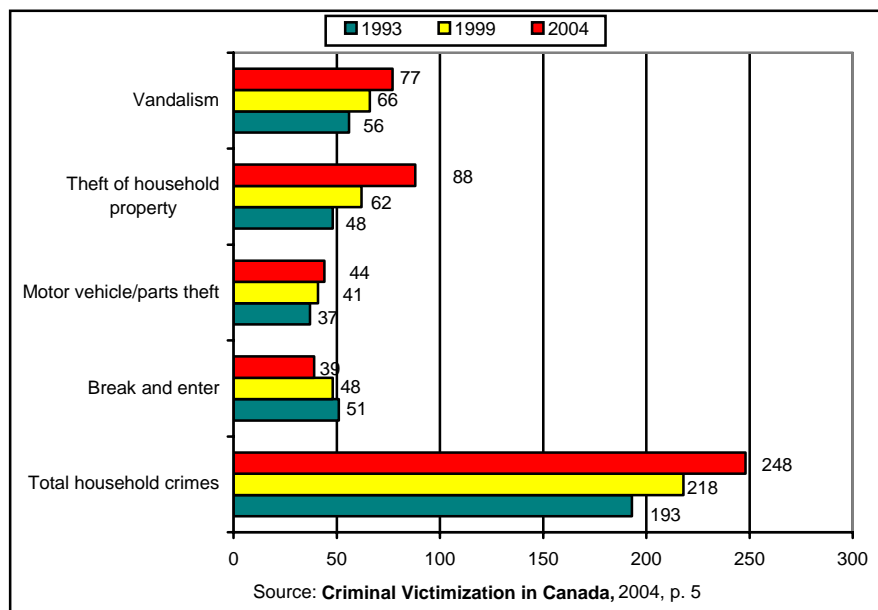


Figure 27 shows that all categories of household victimization per 1,000 population aged 15+ increased from 1993 to 2004, with the exception of 'break and enter,' which decreased 23.5% from 51 per 1,000 population to 39 per 1,000 population. Overall during the period, household victimization increased 28.5% (from 193 per 1,000 population to 248 per 1,000 population), with theft of household property increasing 83.3% (from 48 per 1,000 population to 88 per 1,000 population), vandalism increasing 37.5% (from 56 to 77 per 1,000 population), and motor vehicle/parts theft increasing 18.9% (from 37 to 44 per 1,000 population).

Figure 27: Rate of Household Victimization Incidents per 1,000 Population Aged 25+ Years, Canada, 1993, 1999, and 2004



In addition, 28% of respondents to the 2004 GSS indicated they were victimized one or more times in the twelve months preceding the survey (a slight increase from the 26% of respondents reporting victimization in 1999).

The level of multiple victimizations recorded in 2004 was similar to the findings from 1999. About four in ten victims indicated that they were victimized multiple times. More specifically, 19% of victims experienced two criminal incidents over the course of the previous year, while 20% were victimized three or more times.”¹⁵⁰

¹⁵⁰ Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004, op. cit., p. 4.

Table 28 shows that of selected CMAs in 2004, Halifax had the highest rate of violent victimization at 229 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years, followed by Edmonton at 191. The lowest rates were reported by Québec and Montréal at 55 and 64 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years, respectively. Calgary's reported rate was 161 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years.

Table 28: Number of Incidences and Rate of Victimization per 1,000 Population Aged 15+ Years, Selected Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs), 2004

CMA	Total violent victimization		Total household victimization		Theft of personal property	
	No. of incidents (000s)	Rate/1,000 population 15+ years	No. of incidents (000s)	Rate/1,000 households	No. of incidents (000s)	Rate/1,000 population 15+ years
St. Johns	10 ^E	70 ^E	14	202	13 ^E	93 ^E
Halifax	71	229	46	293	40 ^E	130 ^E
Saint John	17 ^E	173 ^E	11	232	F	F
Saguenay	F	F	6 ^E	99 ^E	F	F
Québec	33 ^E	55 ^E	49	157	41 ^E	69 ^E
Sherbrooke	F	F	8 ^E	115 ^E	3	25
Trois-Rivières	F	F	11 ^E	146 ^E	82 ^E	61 ^E
Montréal	189	64	269	175	211	72
Ottawa-Gatineau	134 ^E	143 ^E	110	234	83 ^E	89 ^E
Kingston	F	F	17 ^E	282 ^E	F	F
Oshawa	44 ^E	156 ^E	32 ^E	248 ^E	36 ^E	130 ^E
Toronto	451	107	426	222	451	107
Hamilton	66 ^E	114 ^E	71	248	66 ^E	115 ^E
St. Catharines-Niagara	F	F	36 ^E	217 ^E	F	F
Kitchener	59 ^E	162 ^E	44	242	31 ^E	85 ^E
London	F	F	76	398	40 ^E	105 ^E
Windsor	F	F	42 ^E	339 ^E	F	F
Sudbury	F	F	13 ^E	220 ^E	F	F
Thunder Bay	F	F	17 ^E	322 ^E	F	F
Winnipeg	84	155	131	487	73	135
Regina	27 ^E	173 ^E	35	424	19 ^E	120 ^E
Saskatoon	27 ^E	146 ^E	54	572	18 ^E	98 ^E
Calgary	137 ^E	161 ^E	125	307	65	77
Edmonton	154 ^E	191 ^E	145	361	79 ^E	98 ^E
Abbotsford	F	F	31 ^E	561 ^E	F	F
Vancouver	194	107	413	462	246	136
Victoria	40 ^E	148 ^E	26 ^E	181 ^E	30 ^E	112 ^E

^E means use with caution.

F means too unreliable to be published.

Source: **Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004**, p. 22.

Saskatoon reported the highest rate of household victimization, 572 per 1,000 households. Saguenay (99 per 1,000 households) had the lowest). Edmonton CMA reported a household victimization rate of 361 per 1,000 household, somewhat higher than the 307 rate of Calgary CMA.

The highest rate for the theft of personal property was reported by Vancouver (136 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years), followed by Winnipeg at 135.

Sherbrooke reported the lowest rate for the theft of personal property, followed by Trois Rivières (25 and 61 per 1,000 population aged 15+, respectively). The rates for Edmonton and Calgary CMAs were 98 and 77 per 1,000 population, respectively.

25. DEMOGRAPHICS OF VICTIMIZATION

“...Various factors contribute to a person’s increased risk of being the target of a violent crime. These factors include personal and lifestyle characteristics, such as sex, age, marital status, main activity, frequency of going out in the evening, household income and location of residence.”¹⁵¹

The 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) found that overall rates of violent victimization were comparable for women and men (102 and 111 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years) and had not changed significantly from 1999. The rate of sexual assault for women (35 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years) in 2004, however, was five times that for men (7 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years).

The rate of physical assault against women dropped from 70 incidents per 1,000 population in 1999 to 59 per 1,000 in 2004. The rate of physical assault against men was somewhat higher but varied little from 1999 to 2004 (92 *versus* 91 incidents per 1,000, respectively).

The rate for violent victimization was highest for those aged 15 to 24 years (226 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years). The risk for violent victimization decreased with age with those 65+ years having the lowest rate, 12 per 1,000 population aged 15+.

“In 2004, those who reported participating in 30 or more evening activities in a given month also reported the highest rates of violent victimization (174 per 1,000 population). This rate was four times higher than those who partook in fewer than 10 evening activities in a one-month period (44 incidents per 1,000).”¹⁵²

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, p. 6.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 7.

In addition:

- Single (not married) respondents reported a higher rate of violent victimization (203 per 1,000) than those who were common-law (131 per 1,000) or married (52 per 1,000).
- Rates of violent victimization were highest for those looking for work (207 per 1,000) and students (183 per 1,000). Retired individuals had the lowest rates (18 per 1,000).
- The rate of violent victimization was 1.5 times greater for individuals in households with incomes of less than \$15,000 per annum than those in higher income brackets.
- Urban residents had a higher rate of violent victimization than rural residents (112 *versus* 84 per 1,000, respectively).
- “The rate of violent victimization for those who were gay or lesbian was 242 per 1,000 population, compared to 99 per 1,000 population of those who were heterosexual.”¹⁵³

Similarly,

“A number of factors have been linked to a household’s likelihood of being a target for victimization.... Some of these factors include location of the home (urban/rural), the type of dwelling, home ownership, household income, and size of household.”¹⁵⁴

The likelihood of household victimization decreased with length of residency. In 2004, homes that had been lived in for less than one year reported a victimization rate of 317 incidents per 1,000 household *versus* 196 per 1,000 households for homes that had been lived in for ten years or more.

Homes in urban areas had higher rates of household victimization (269 per 1,000 households) *versus* homes in rural areas (164 per 1,000 households). The rate of household victimization for homes in urban areas increased 16% from 1999 to 2004 while the rate for rural homes reported no change.

In addition in 2004,

- Rates of household victimization were slightly higher for renters than owners (267 and 242 incidents per 1,000 households, respectively).
- However, rates of vandalism were 19% higher for rented homes than owned dwellings (81 *versus* 68 per 1,000 households, respectively).

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 9.

¹⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 14.

- Higher household income increased the rate for household victimization. Households with an income of \$60,000 had a rate of 300 incidents per 1,000 households, while the incident rate for households with an income of less than \$15,000 was 160 per 1,000 households.
- The household victimization rate for individuals living by themselves was 178 per 1,000 households; the household victimization rate for homes with four or more occupants was 323 per 1,000.
- The rate of household victimization varied with the type of home: semi-detached, row, and duplex homes had rates of 323 incidents per 1,000 households; single detached homes, 247 per 1,000 households; and apartments, 213 per 1,000 households.

Theft of personal property is 1.5 half times more likely to occur to urban residents than rural residents.

“According to the 2004 GSS, females were more likely than males to be the victim of personal property theft (100 per 1,000 population *versus* 86), and risk decreased with age. Rates for individuals aged 15 to 24 years were almost 5 times greater than the rates for those 55 years of age and older (165 *versus* 35 per 1,000 population). In addition, similar to household victimization, those whose income was higher were also at greater risk.”¹⁵⁵

26. CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME

“Children and youth are victims of physical and sexual assaults and other forms of violence which are perpetrated by fathers, mothers, siblings, acquaintances, friends and strangers. They are targeted at home, in their neighbourhood, at school and even when they are surfing on the Internet.”¹⁵⁶

A 2005 **Juristat** report, based on police-reported data, explored the nature and extent to which children and youth were victimized. Note, however, that according to the 1999 GSS, “86% of sexual assaults and 73% of physical assaults were not reported to police by youth aged 15-to-17 years. It would be expected that this would hold true for victims younger than 15 who may lack the understanding of what constitutes abuse, may be dependant on the offender and may be unaware of how or to whom to report a crime. The GSS results also

¹⁵⁵

Ibid..

¹⁵⁶

Juristat: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Children and Youth as Victims of Violent Crime, Kathy AuCoin, Statistics Canada – Catalogue No. 85-002-XIE, Vol. 25, no. 1, p. 2.

suggest that the likelihood of victims reporting incidents of violent offences increased with age.”¹⁵⁷

The findings were:

- Children and youth under 18 years of age in 2003 “represented 21%¹⁵⁸ of the Canadian population and 22% of victims of violent offences¹⁵⁹ reported to 122 police departments representing 61% of the national volume of crime.”¹⁶⁰
- In 2003, children and youth were victims in 21% of physical and 61% of sexual assaults reported to police.
- The risk of violent victimization increased with age. The rates for boys and girls remained similar up to the age of 8 years. The rate for girls then peaked at age 15 years at 2,463 incidents per 1,000. The rate for boys peaked at 2,557 incidents per 1,000 at age 17 years.
- Approximately six out of ten physical assaults on children under 6 years of age reported to police were by a family member; similarly, half of sexually assaulted victims aged 6 years and younger were victimized by a family member.
- Youth aged 14 to 17 years were more likely to be assaulted by individuals outside the family circle. They were also victims in 17% of reported robberies and 14% of all police-reported extortion cases, but represented only 5% of the population.
- “At each age, female children and youth were assaulted more than males by a family member while male children and youth were more likely to be assaulted by persons from outside the family.”¹⁶¹

27. ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND VICTIMIZATION

The 2004 General Social Survey reported that approximately 40% of Aboriginal people aged 15+ years had been victimized in the twelve months prior to the survey, compared to 28% of non-Aboriginal people. Moreover, 21% of Aboriginal respondents indicated that they were victimized more than once in the twelve-month period, in contrast to only 11% of non-Aboriginal respondents.

¹⁵⁷ **Ibid.**

¹⁵⁸ Census data excluding individuals over the age of 89 years and children under one year of age, postcensal estimations.

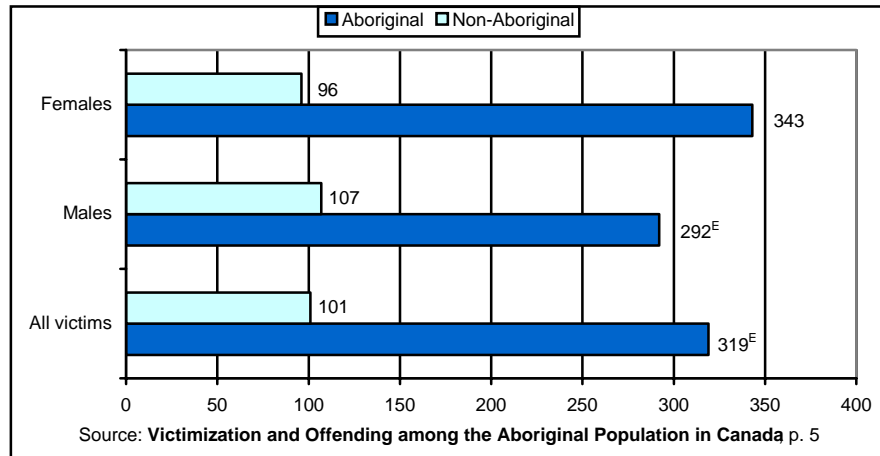
¹⁵⁹ These include physical and sexual assaults, murder, abductions, kidnapping, and other violent violations, or the threat of violence.

¹⁶⁰ **Children and Youth as Victims of Violent Crime, op. cit., p. 3.**

¹⁶¹ **Ibid., p. 1.**

Figure 28 shows that Aboriginal people have a significantly higher rate of violent victimization than non-Aboriginal people (319 *versus* 101 per 1,000 population aged 15+ years, respectively).

Figure 28: Rate of Violent Victimization per 1,000 Population Aged 15+ Years by Aboriginal Status and Gender, Canada, 2004¹⁶²



^E means use number with caution.

Note that “Aboriginal women appeared particularly at risk of victimization. Rates for Aboriginal women were 3.5 times higher than the rates recorded for non-Aboriginal women, while rates for Aboriginal men were 2.7 times higher than those for non-Aboriginal men.”¹⁶³

Aboriginal people aged 15 to 34 years had a much higher rate of violent victimization than Aboriginal people 35 years and older (461 *versus* 192 per 1,000 aged 15+ years, respectively). These figures were also significantly higher than those reported for non-Aboriginal people: 182 incidents per 1,000 for those aged 15 to 34 years and 61 incidents per 1,000 for those aged 35+ years.

In addition, “Aboriginal people are much more likely to be victims of homicide than non-Aboriginal people. Between 1997 and 2000, the average homicide rate for Aboriginal people was 8.8 per 100,000 population, almost seven times higher than that for non-Aboriginal people (1.3 per 100,000 population).”¹⁶⁴

¹⁶² Includes incidents of spousal physical and sexual abuse as well as sexual assault, assault, and robbery.

¹⁶³ Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004, op. cit., p. 8.

¹⁶⁴ Victimization and Offending among the Aboriginal Population in Canada, op. cit., p. 1.

28. ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION

The 2004 General Social Survey asked respondents to indicate “how problematic socially disruptive conditions¹⁶⁵ were in their neighbourhood.”¹⁶⁶ Overall, such conditions were more likely to be identified as ‘very or ‘fairly’ big problems in their neighbourhoods by Aboriginal people than non-Aboriginal people (e.g., drug use and drug trafficking, 22% *versus* 12%, respectively; public drunkenness and rowdy behaviour, 18% *versus* 6%); vandalism, graffiti and other types of property and vehicle damage, 15% *versus* 8%).

When the GSS then asked questions about respondents’ fear levels (Table 29), it was somewhat surprising that 92% of Aboriginal people reported they were ‘very’ or ‘somewhat satisfied,’ compared to 94% on non-Aboriginal people. Only 7% of Aboriginal people and 5% of non-Aboriginal people were ‘somewhat’ or ‘very dissatisfied.’

Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people felt equally ‘very’ or ‘reasonably safe’ while walking alone in their area after dark (87% and 86%, respectively); 12% of Aboriginal people and 10% of non-Aboriginal people felt ‘somewhat or very unsafe.’ Meanwhile, 78% of Aboriginal people and 80% of non-Aboriginal people were ‘not at all worried’ when alone at home in the evening or at night. However, 43% of Aboriginal people and 38% of non-Aboriginal people were ‘somewhat worried’ while waiting for/using public transportation after dark.

Table 29: GSS Questionnaire – Feelings of Safety from Crime by Aboriginal Status, 2004^{167,168}		
	% Aboriginal	% Non-Aboriginal
While waiting for/using public transportation alone after dark, How do you feel about your safety from crime?		
Not at all worried	50	57
Somewhat worried	43	38
Very worried	F	5
Don’t know/Not stated	0	1 ^E
How safe do you feel from crime when walking alone in your area after dark?		
Very safe	45	44
Reasonably safe	42	46
Somewhat or very unsafe	12	10

¹⁶⁵ Includes: noisy neighbours; loud parties; people loitering in the street; people sleeping on the streets; garbage; vandalism; harassment or attacks motivated by racial, ethnic, or religious intolerance; drugs, public drunkenness; and prostitution.

¹⁶⁶ **Victimization and Offending among the Aboriginal Population in Canada, op. cit., p. 9.**

¹⁶⁷ Includes only respondents who engaged in these activities.

¹⁶⁸ Excludes responses of those whose Aboriginal status was not known or refused.

Don't know/Not stated	0	0 ^E
While alone in your home in the evening or at night, how do you feel about your safety from crime?		
Not at all worried	78	80
Somewhat worried	19	18
Very worried	4 ^E	2
Don't know/Not stated	0	0 ^E
In general, how do you feel about your safety from crime?		
Very satisfied	47	44
Somewhat satisfied	45	50
Somewhat dissatisfied	5 ^E	4
Very dissatisfied	2 ^E	1
Don't know/Not stated	F	0

0 means true zero or a value rounded to zero.

^E means use with caution.

F means too unreliable to be published.

Source: **Victimization and Offending among the Aboriginal Population in Canada**, p. 24.

“When respondents were asked whether, compared to other areas in Canada, they thought their neighbourhood had a higher amount of crime, about the same, or a lower amount of crime, about 6 in 10 of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons felt that crime in their neighbourhood was lower than in other areas of the country.”¹⁶⁹

29. THE IMPACT OF VICTIMIZATION

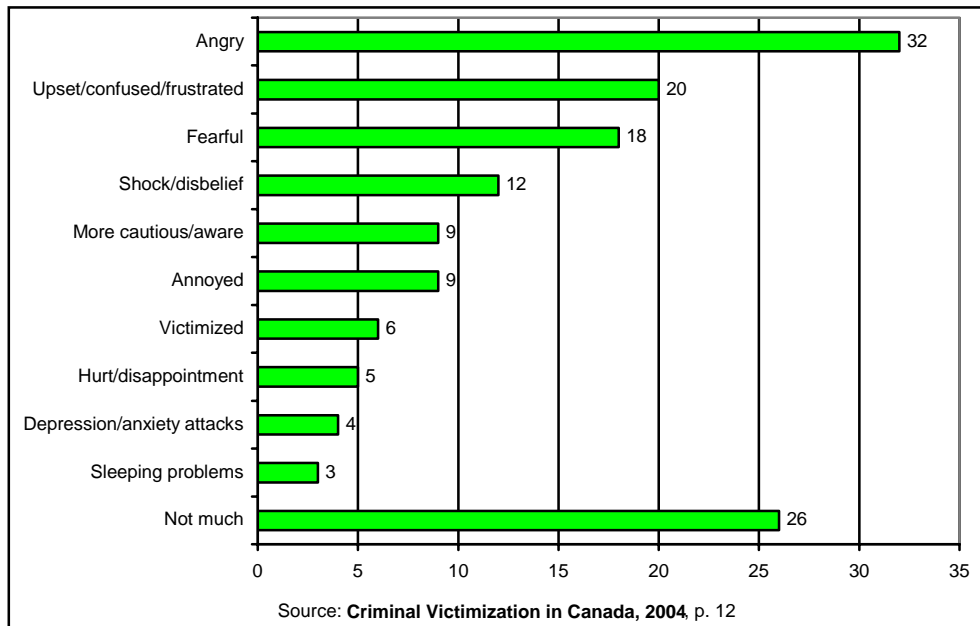
“Victims who are unable to return to work or lead a ‘normal’ lifestyle following victimization are constantly reminded of the pain and suffering they have endured at the hands of another person. This can cause a great deal of mental anguish, not to mention social isolation and dependency upon social assistance or crimes compensation awards.”¹⁷⁰

Individuals who have been victims of violent victimization may suffer from physical injuries and need medical attention, or have emotional scars that make it difficult to return to their activities prior to the incident. Figure 29, however, shows that 26% of victims reported to the 2004 GSS that the ‘incident did not affect them much.’

¹⁶⁹ **Victimization and Offending among the Aboriginal Population in Canada**, op. cit., p.

¹⁷⁰ **The Impact of Victimization**, op. cit..

Figure 29: Reactions among Victims of Violent Victimization, Aged 15+ Years, Canada, 2004



The majority of violent victimization victims felt 'angry' (32%). A fifth of respondents (20%) felt 'upset/confused/frustrated' while 18% felt 'fearful.' In 2004, GSS reported the police were aware of 33% of incidents of violent victimizations, slightly more than the 31% reported in the 1999 GSS.

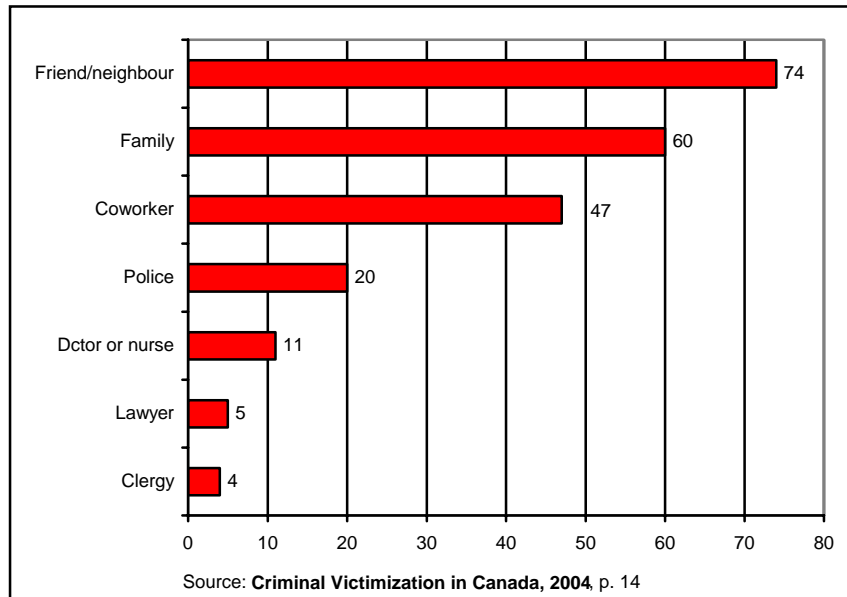
"Among violent incidents, robberies and physical assaults were most likely to be reported (46% and 39%). Sexual assaults were the least likely to be reported to police (8%)."¹⁷¹

Figure 30 shows that after a violent victimization the person involved is most likely to contact friends and neighbours (74%), followed by family members (60%).¹⁷² In addition, about 9% of victims sought assistance from formal helping agencies. "Seeking help from a counsellor or psychologist was the most frequently used service among all victims of violence."¹⁷³

¹⁷¹ **Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004, op. cit., p. 12.**

¹⁷² The numbers in Figure 29 will not add up to 100% due to multiple responses. In addition, the data in the figure exclude incidents of spousal sexual and physical assault.

¹⁷³ **Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004, op. cit., p. 13.**

Figure 30: To Whom Victims Turn after a Violent Incident, Canada, 2004

Household victimizations can also cause emotional reactions and create financial burden for the victims. The 2004 GSS reported that the reaction to 41% of household victimization incidents was anger. The victims in 22% of incidents felt annoyed, while 20% of victims reported no emotional reaction. In addition:

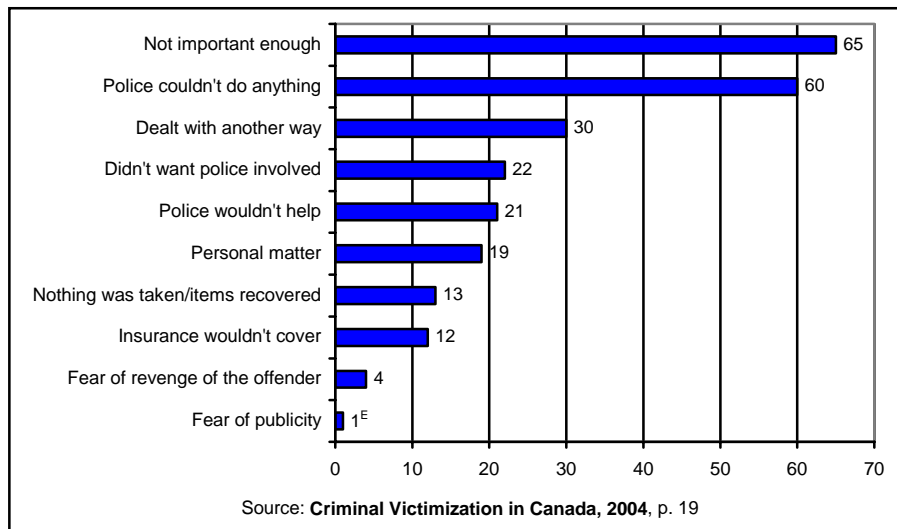
- Break and enter victims were almost four times more likely than other household crime victims to be fearful after the incidence (19% *versus* 5%). Victims were also more cautious (13%) after break and enter incidents and felt more victimized (11%).
- In 2004, property was lost in 8 out of 10 incidents among the theft-related offences. Stolen property was partially or fully recovered in only 12% of incidents; motor vehicles/parts were recovered in 21% of incidents. Note that “irreplaceable items that go unrecovered can cause additional emotional upset, while the process of replacing goods can involve time spent filing insurance claims, compiling lists of property loss, waiting for any compensation, and buying new items.”¹⁷⁴
- The economic loss for 63% of victims was less than \$500 and for 10%, there was no loss at all (28% of break and enters and 43% of theft of motor vehicles or parts were attempts).
- In 24% of incidents involving financial loss, the victims did not have insurance.

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 16.

- Only 37% of all household victimizations were reported to police. However, the police were notified in 8 out of 10 incidents involving a financial loss of \$1,000 or more.

Figure 31 shows that 65% of victims¹⁷⁵ of household victimizations felt that the incident was 'not important enough' to report to police. In addition, 60% of victims felt the 'police couldn't do anything' and 30% dealt with the incident in 'another way.' When the GSS respondents were asked to give the main reason for not reporting the incident to police, 43% said the incident was 'not important enough' while 25% responded the 'police couldn't do anything.'

Figure 31: Reasons for Not Reporting Household Victimization, Canada, 2004



30. PREVENTION OF VICTIMIZATION

The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) has adapted the philosophy of community policing and operates a number of crime prevention initiatives within this framework. These include: Personal Safety, Home Security, Alarm Bylaw/Systems, Auto Theft, Business Security, Robbery Awareness Education Kit, Shoplifters, Counterfeit Money, Office Security, Cooperative Policing, Crime Free Multi Housing Program, and CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). These will be described, below, under City of Edmonton Initiatives.

¹⁷⁵ The 2004 GSS allowed multiple responses to this question.

31. CITY OF EDMONTON INITIATIVES

The following represents a listing of key initiatives, services, and programs currently endorsed by City of Edmonton Departments for prevention of crime and victimization.

Safedmonton

Safedmonton is a collaborative initiative of the City of Edmonton with representatives from health, education, law enforcement, business, security, and social services and volunteer community organizations. Its goal is to connect Edmontonians to tips, tools, and resources in order to build a safe and caring community.

Safedmonton's mandate is to facilitate and promote collaborative local initiatives in crime prevention and to inform the City's Senior Management about issues of urban safety. It acts as a hub, communicating, sharing information, and providing connections within the Edmonton community.

To accomplish this, the **Safedmonton Advisory Committee** has a number of working groups (e.g., Communications, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), Prostitution, and Social Development) and sub committees (e.g., Edmonton Safe Streets; Drug Treatment and Community Restoration Court; Edmonton Regional Crime Prevention Network; Edmonton Stop Marijuana Grow Ops Coalition; Edmonton Community Drug Strategy [ECDS]).

Safedmonton's top five guiding principles are: an emphasis on crime prevention, strategic focus and priority action, civic departments working together, community involvement, and community values. The four key messages for **Safedmonton: Looking out for each other** campaign are:

- Safety is everyone's responsibility.
- There are many ways a person can contribute to his/her personal safety and a safe and caring community.
- Little everyday actions make a difference.
- A connected community is a safer community.

Safedmonton partners, whether from City departments or community organizations, report experiencing real life impact on their work in four ways:

- connecting with people, exchanging information and knowing whom to call or where to make referrals;
- gaining a wider perspective and thinking differently about safety;
- creating opportunities to work collaboratively; and
- developing new competencies.

In 2005, **Safedmonton's Innovative Collaboration** included:

- facilitation of ground breaking Project SNUG offering a unique circle of support and compassion for women involved in street prostitutions; and
- Formation of the Prostitution Working Group to tackle issues of crime, street prostitution, and drug use from an integrated perspective.

Communication:

- launch of the new name **Safedmonton**, marking the 15th anniversary celebration of **Safer Cities**, and a new public education campaign;
- successful nomination of Safe Housing Program of the Society for the Retired and Semi Retired (now **SAGE**) for a 2005 Alberta Community Crime Prevention award; and
- production of the **Problem Properties** brochure to help citizens identify and act upon concerns about derelict and other properties in their neighbourhood.

Research and Evaluation:

- impact assessment of **Safedmonton**, 2003 – 06, begun to evaluate the impact of **Safedmonton** collaboration on partners and identify future directions; and
- research and development for the **Safedmonton Community Safety Toolset**, to be launched in the summer of 2006.

Financial and Human Resources:

- acquisition of an additional \$100,000 from City Council for **Safedmonton** in December 2005;
- successful application for Health Canada funding for **Safe Needle Disposal Toolkits** and **Project SNUG** in conjunction with the Edmonton Community Drug Strategy; and

- key stakeholders contributed a total of over 3,500 hours of time to the work of **Safedmonton**.

Urban Safety:

- collection of over 5,043 discarded needles in 2005 through **Edmonton Safe Streets** disposal box program; and
- a total of 53 new derelict housing files were opened in 2005, with 50 closed by demolition and 11 due to upgrades. 68 derelict files remain open at the end of 2005.

Safedmonton also has a **Safety Audit Guide for Crime Prevention**. This tool can be used by citizens of Edmonton, volunteer groups, and businesses to identify and address safety concerns in their area. **Crime Prevention Safety Audits** focus on individuals working together to increase safety in public and semi-public areas such as: parks, bus stops, streets, the workplace, colleges and universities, underground parking garages, school yards, washrooms in shopping malls, the transit system, pedways, laundry rooms, parking lots and parkades, recreation centres, and anywhere anyone feels unsafe.

Project SNUG

Project SNUG is a pilot project offering a circle of immediate emergency support, counselling, service referral, and detoxification services to people involved in prostitution after their arrest processing by Edmonton Police Service. The name “SNUG” refers to how the community, government, and police work together to provide these needed services.

The goals of **SNUG** are to:

- create a framework for a new way of working with the police, sharing and distributing information about existing resources for people involved in prostitution;
- give women a stepping stone to leave the street, offer some of life’s basics – temporary shelter, food, counselling, treatment for addictions – and be a friend and listen;
- explore a new way of coordinating limited resources to assist women in dealing with the poverty and addictions that trap them in prostitution;
- help key community agencies, partners, and the community-at-large understand and advocate for sustainable resources for addiction and treatment services and affordable housing which lie at the root of many problems; and
- build a climate of support, trust, and respect.

Hate and Bias Crime Initiative

The **Hate and Bias Crime Initiative** advocates for a safe and inclusive environment for Edmonton's diverse and multicultural society. The initiative is committed to building a framework to manage issues and prevent occurrences involving hate.

Edmonton Police Service (EPS) defines a hate crime as an offence committed against a person or property which is motivated (in whole or in part) by the suspect's hate, bias, or prejudice towards an identifiable group based on, real or perceived, race, national or ethnic origin, language colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, or any other similar factor. Examples of hate/ bias crime include:

- violence, threats of violence;
- acts of mischief or vandalism;
- distribution of hate literature, hate mail;
- threatening phone calls; and/or
- destruction of religious property or symbols.

There are three **Hate Propaganda**¹⁷⁶ sections in the Criminal Code:

- **Advocating Genocide** (Section 318): to argue or urge people to kill others because of their colour, race, religion, or ethnic origin.
- **Public Incitement of Hatred** (Section 319[1]): Everyone who, by communicating statements in any public place, incites hatred against any identifiable group where such incitement is likely to lead to a breach of the peace is guilty of an offence.
- **Wilful Promotion of Hatred** (Section 319[2]): Everyone who by communicating statements other than in private conversation wilfully promotes hatred against any identifiable group is guilty of an offence.

¹⁷⁶ Hate propaganda is defined as any communication, poster, and/or graffiti used by a person or group that promotes hatred based on race religion, nationality, or ethnic origin.

Walkable Edmonton

“A walkable **Edmonton** is a lively and robust place with interesting linkages between attractive places and safe walkways. The built form, land use patterns, public open spaces, streets and circulation systems all contribute to the success or failure of neighbourhoods being walkable, sociable and safe places.”¹⁷⁷

The **Walkable Edmonton Initiative** supports these goals by working with **Community Services** staff members, other civic departments and community partners to:

- design and develop a sustainable year round “Walkable Edmonton Strategy;”
- work with other civic departments to promote the connectivity of urban form and pattern with the use of multi-use corridors which link street systems and open space park systems to commercial and other community places; and
- work with other civic departments and other partners to facilitate infrastructure changes that increase safety for pedestrians and cyclists, reduce and calm traffic, and cut pollution.

Community Services Department

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) is a joint municipal/provincial partnership that funds and supports the development and delivery of preventive social service programs in Edmonton. FCSS funding is directed to community-based social service programs that are preventive in nature, promote, and enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

¹⁷⁷

http://www.edmonton.ca/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_1655790_0_0_18/walkableedmonton.htm.

Table 30 shows that in 2006 FCSS funded seven programs related to Crime and Victimization.

Table 30: 2006 FCSS Funded Programs Related to Crime and Victimization with Program Information			
Agency	Program	Program Description	Amount
Canadian Red Cross Society (The)	Respected – Violence & Abuse Prevention Program	Educates children, youth, and adults who interact with young people (including teachers, parents, community members, coaches, health professionals, faith advisors, and others) on the effects of abuse, neglect, violence, bullying, and harassment; identifies helping resources.	\$56,879
Changing Together...A Centre for Immigrant Women	Family Violence Prevention Program	Addresses family violence related issues faced by immigrant and refugee women and their families. Provides counselling, support groups, and referrals to legal and other community resources.	\$79,693
Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton, Alberta (The)	Aboriginal Women's Program	Provides services to help Aboriginal women reconnect with their culture through appropriate cultural activities and supports their efforts in reducing the likelihood that they will continue to have conflict with the law. Assists women in breaking the cycle of violence and abuse for themselves and their children.	\$34,270
Mediation & Restorative Justice Centre	Community Mediation Program	Provides free mediation services and communication skills training to neighbours, community groups, and not-for-profit organizations experiencing conflict. Promotes peaceful relationships within communities and prevents the escalation of conflict into crime and violence.	\$33,000
Partners for Youth Outreach Society of Edmonton	Outreach/Community Youth & Family Support Program	Works to reduce family violence, child neglect/abuse, and youth crime and to increase the number of stable families.	\$112,500
Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton	Public Education Program	Increases public awareness concerning sexual violence, dispels myths that perpetuate violence, provides prevention strategies, and researches new and emerging trends.	\$167,295
YWCA of Edmonton	Counselling Services Program	Works with individuals and families impacted by family violence by empowering them to improve their life situations and actively work towards ending abuse in their lives.	\$44,514

Note that programs receiving FCSS funding must be registered not-for-profit organizations that have been incorporated for a minimum of a year. Programs that provide primarily for the recreation needs or leisure pursuits of individuals; offer direct financial assistance, including money, food, clothing, or shelter to an individual or family; are primarily rehabilitative; or duplicate services ordinarily provided by a government or government agency are not funded by FCSS.

The City of Edmonton Community Investment Operating Grant program provides operating assistance to Edmonton's non-profit organizations whose activities result in benefits to the citizens of Edmonton. Organizations are eligible for grants if they are based in Edmonton, if they primarily serve Edmontonians, and if their programs/services have a social, multicultural, or recreation/amateur sport character. Table 31 lists the organizations with programs relating to crime and victimization that received Community Investment Operating Grants for 2006.

Table 31: Organizations Providing Programs/Services Related to Crime and Victimization Receiving Community Investment Operating Grants for 2006	
Organization	Amount
Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice	\$15,000
Elizabeth Fry Society of Edmonton, Alberta (The)	\$15,000
Mediation & Restorative Justice Centre	\$4,372
Prostitution Awareness and Action Foundation of Edmonton	\$15,000
Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton	\$10,000
Wings of Providence Society	\$15,000

Organizations requesting grants must be registered (under appropriate provincial or federal legislation) as a non-profit for at least one year and have open membership; should not substantially duplicate the activities of other applicants or other government-supported organizations; and may apply for up to twenty-five percent of their total operating expenditures for the previous fiscal year (to a maximum of \$15,000).

Corporate Services Department

A new program to help create greater awareness and understanding amongst Edmontonians of the City's diverse faith communities, **Celebration of Our Faiths**, opened on October 20, 2006. The program, sponsored by the City of Edmonton and the **Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action**,¹⁷⁸

¹⁷⁸ The Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education And Action is a co-operative of faiths working together to increase awareness and understanding of the various faiths and faith groups in the City. The faiths

allows Edmontonians and visitors to the Capital City the opportunity to view a celebration of the Hindu faith as Deepawali, a festival of lights symbolizing the victory of righteousness and the lifting of spiritual darkness, is marked.

The **Celebration of Our Faiths** will host various faith displays throughout the year. Visitors will have the opportunity to see religious symbols and read about the meaning and use of each item in the celebration of the specific faith.

Edmonton Police Service (EPS)

Edmonton Police Service (EPS) has adapted the philosophy of community policing and operates a number of crime prevention initiatives within this framework. These include Personal Safety, Home Security, Alarm Bylaw/Systems, Auto Theft, Business Security, Robbery Awareness Education Kit, Shoplifters, Counterfeit Money, Office Security, Cooperative Policing, and Crime Free Multi Housing Program.

EPS also partners with other crime prevention programs:

- **Safedmonton** (see above)
- **Heads Up Fraud Prevention Association** whose goal is to develop and deliver fraud prevention information to the public in order to increase awareness and decrease victimization in relation to fraud related activities.
- **Resources to prevent Identity Theft** (includes Heads Up Fraud Prevention Association and Phone Busters).
- **Cypertip** Canada's National Tip line for reporting online sexual exploitation of children.
- **Community Solutions to Gang Violence** comprised of a diverse cross section of private citizens, community organizations and all levels of government, working collaboratively on a strategic, community-wide approach to address the issue of gangs and gang violence in order to make Edmonton and its surrounding area free from gang violence.
- **The Prostitution in Edmonton Resource Centre** helps those affected by prostitution and prostitution-related activities by encouraging citizens to report prostitution in their neighbourhoods, by encouraging prostitutes who are sexually assaulted to report the offences, and by providing information (including health information) to concerned citizens.

represented are Aboriginal, Bahai, Buddhist, Christian, Eckankar, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Scientology, Taoist, Unitarian, and Zoroastrian.

- The **StoreWatch Robbery Prevention Initiative** provides information to owners, managers, and employees about what can be done to help prevent a robbery, how the safety of customers and employees can be maintained during a robbery, and the steps that can be taken after a robbery to assist in the arrest of the suspects.
- **Mill Woods Community Patrol (MWCP)**, a non-profit volunteer organization that assists EPS with daily policing efforts in the Mill Woods area. MWCP not only patrols the Mill Woods area, but has also provided volunteer staff for several major local events, performing traffic/crowd control and security duties at the 2002 Edmonton International Air Show, Mill Woods Canada Day celebrations, and Klondike Days Parades.
- **Community Police Radio Network (C.P.R.N.)** is a civilian volunteer organization that assists the community in the detection and prevention of crime. C.P.R.N. members are involved in many community service projects, i.e., Halloween Patrol, special functions at Klondike Days, Multiple Sclerosis Walk and Bike Tour, Triathlon, Downtown Business Association, shopping mall surveillance, Industrial Patrol, Whyte Avenue Patrol, and Community Special Assignments. Members have been instrumental in the apprehension of suspects for various crimes, helped identify stolen vehicles, and responded on an immediate basis to assist in the search for missing persons, natural disaster, relief, and community crime prevention needs.
- **Neighbourhood Empowerment Team (NET)**, a multi-disciplined crime prevention and crime reduction program aimed at stabilizing environments within ‘at-risk’ communities. “Each NET is comprised of an EPS police officer and a Capacity Builder. Together, they foster partnerships in the community and mobilize individuals to take action on community concerns by establishing crime prevention strategies owned and maintained by residents and supported by police.”¹⁷⁹

Priorities for **NET** are:

- to reduce crime and fear of crime in areas that have suffered from community apathy, neighbourhood decay, and diminished resource support;
- to mobilize those who live, work, and play in identified areas to take action on community concerns by establishing resident driven/police supported crime prevention strategies;
- to foster partnerships that are designed to integrate community resources; to provide customized responses the root causes of crime and reduce the demand for traditional police intervention; and

¹⁷⁹ <http://www.police.edmonton.ab.ca/Pages/NET/index.asp>.

- to provide multi-disciplined interventions to at-risk populations within the community.

NET programs include AutoSafe: Vehicle Theft Reduction Program, Bully Busters, Creating Apartment Safety Together, Drop-in Gym Nights, First Offence/Community Consequence, Graffiti Patrols, Safe and Secure Homes, and Safe Squad.

- **Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)** aims at discouraging opportunities for crime by creating a safe environment. The **CPTED Working Group** brings together diverse City departments, police, community organizations and citizens to improve the quality of life in Edmonton by emphasizing pride in our city and by providing tools for communities to use to build a safe city. CPTED also speaks to prevention, suggesting communities need to take care of little things so that they don't lead to big issues.

EPS also collaborates with The City of **Edmonton Community Services** and **Catholic Social Services** on the **Elder Abuse Intervention Team** in order to prevent and respond to elder abuse by working in partnership with the community, thereby enhancing the well-being of older adults. Other collaborations include: D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), P.P.P. (Parent Parking Patrol), The Edmonton Safe Parent Association (formerly known as Block Parents), Neighbourhood Watch, and Crime Stoppers.

In addition, the **RCMP** in the Edmonton area and **EPS** are the first police agencies in Canada to introduce **Street Legal**, an **EPS Racing Team Program** for Canadian youth.¹⁸⁰ The objectives of **Street Legal** are:

- to deliver the message of **Street Legal** by being highly visible in the community. The race teams and their cars make presentations at middle and high schools, trade shows, conventions, shopping malls, community events, and motor sport events.
- to provide a facility where young race enthusiasts can participate in motor vehicle competition in a safe and controlled environment; and
- to develop long-term partnerships among traffic safety stakeholders.

¹⁸⁰ The program began in the United States in 1988 and has expanded to include over 120 U.S. police agencies.

The **EPS Racing Team** is dedicated to:

- enhancing traffic safety by encouraging responsible motoring among youthful drivers;
- motivating youth to stay in school through the practical application of math and sciences to the sport of drag racing;
- delivering positive messages about quality of life without drug and alcohol abuse; and
- encouraging self-respect and leadership among youth through teamwork and positive interaction with police officers.

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