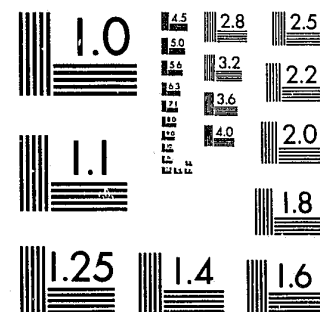


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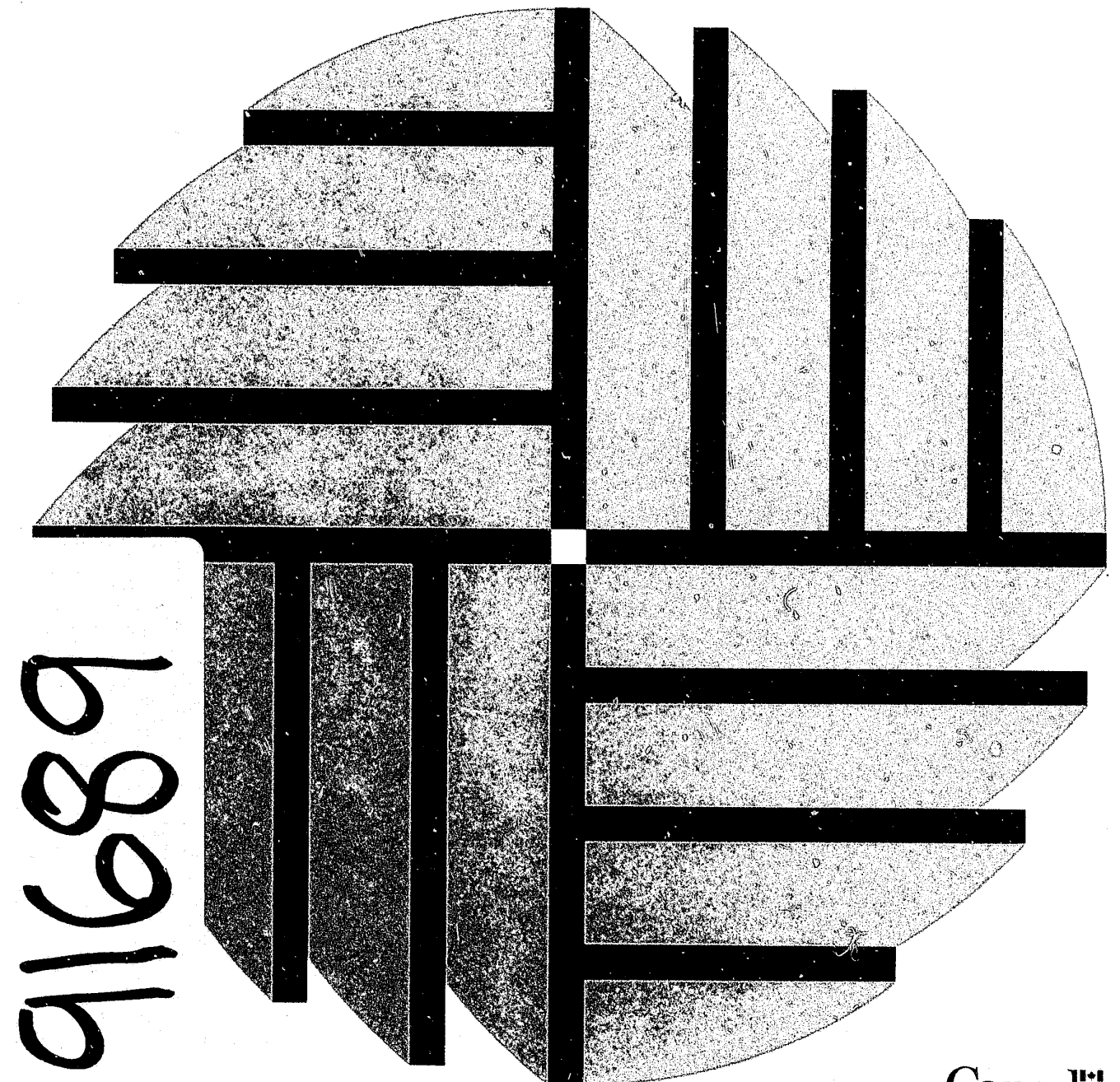


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**Juvenile
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1981**



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Juvenile Court Statistics 1981

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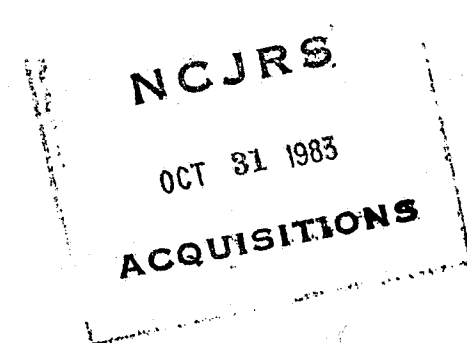
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INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared to provide a summary of the results, for 1981, of the survey of juvenile courts conducted by the Juvenile Justice Program of the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Its main focus is on interprovincial comparisons of overall counts and rates of delinquency charges adjudicated by the courts. Data on the types of charges, the nature of the adjudications, and the dispositions or sentences given by the juvenile courts are also presented.

The Juvenile Court Survey is a census of those courts in Canada empowered to adjudicate charges of delinquency in accordance with the Juvenile Delinquents Act¹ or equivalent provincial legislation. These courts report to the Centre information on each charge disposed of under the Act. It should be noted, however, that each year a small number of courts do not participate in the survey², that there is some underreporting of charges³, and that a certain number of forms arrive at the Centre too late to be processed⁴. No estimation procedure has been developed to adjust the charge counts for these types of error.

¹ R.S.C. 1970, c. J-3.

² Thirty-seven (37) locations out of a possible total of 745 did not report in 1981. A "location" is a court or a satellite court. The majority of the 37 nonreporting locations were satellites or small courts which may have had very few or no charges to report.

³ "Underreporting" is defined as the failure on the part of courts which do participate in the survey to report 100% of all charges adjudicated.

⁴ It is estimated that late returns would increase the total charge count by no more than 2.0%.

Under the Juvenile Delinquents Act, the age jurisdiction of the juvenile courts, i.e. the age range within which a person must fall in order to be defined as a "juvenile" for the purpose of applying the delinquency legislation, varies from province to province. It is 7 to 15 years of age inclusive in all provinces and territories with the following four exceptions: 7 to 16 years inclusive in Newfoundland and British Columbia; 7 to 17 years inclusive in Manitoba; and 14 to 17 years inclusive in Quebec. The lower age limit was raised from 7 to 14 in Quebec when the provincial Youth Protection Act⁵ was implemented in 1979. The variation in age jurisdictions in effect at this time complicates interprovincial comparisons based on the data received from the juvenile courts.

The survey data discussed here pertain only to charges handled by the juvenile courts. Thus, any interprovincial comparisons made are purely with respect to juvenile court activity and are not indicative of the relative incidence of delinquent activity in the provinces/territories. To make the latter type of comparison one would have to have supplementary data on the diversion from the formal court process of juvenile offenders who could, potentially, have faced charges in the courts.

Finally, while every attempt has been made to make the meaning of terms used in this report as clear as possible, the reader is invited to consult Juvenile Delinquents, 1981⁶ for additional background on the survey, definitions of terms, forms used by the jurisdictions to report to the Centre, and additional tables.

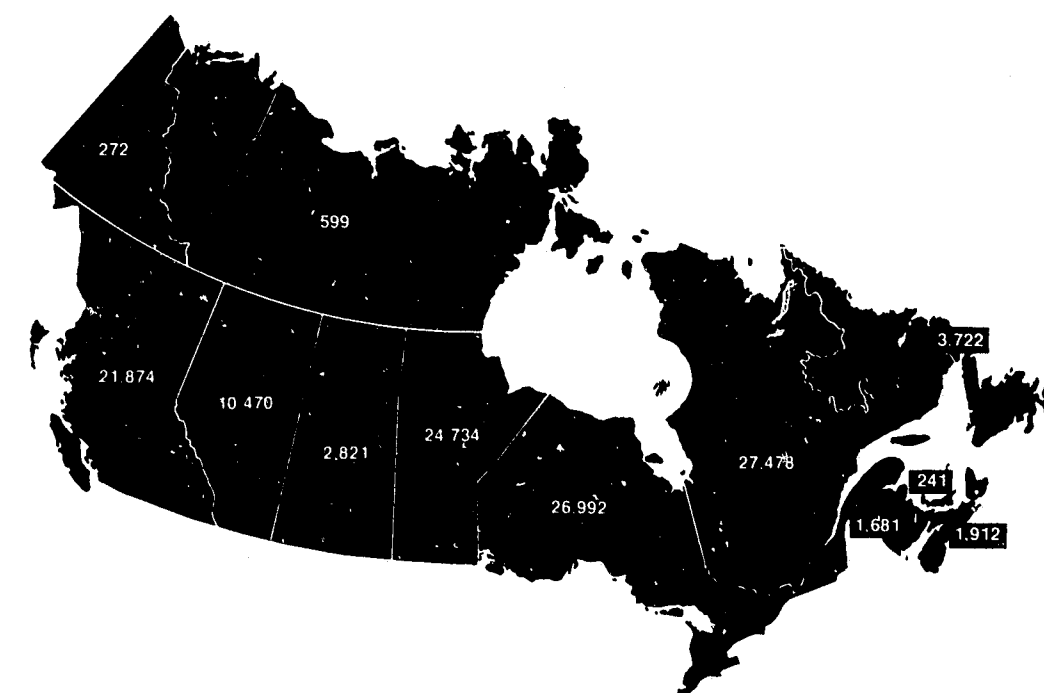
⁵ R.S.Q., 1977, c. P-34.

⁶ Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

OVERALL CHARGE COUNTS AND RATES

The basic "unit of count" employed in this survey is a charge of delinquency adjudicated by a court during the calendar year under consideration. The total number of charges reported for 1981 was 122,796. This number includes a small percentage (0.8%) of charges heard against adults⁷ charged with contributing to delinquency under Section 33 of the Juvenile Delinquents Act or returned to court under Section 20 (3) in connection with charges they had faced while they were juveniles. Figure 1 indicates the number of charges reported by each province.

FIGURE 1
Number of Charges⁽¹⁾ Adjudicated in Each Province/Territory, 1981

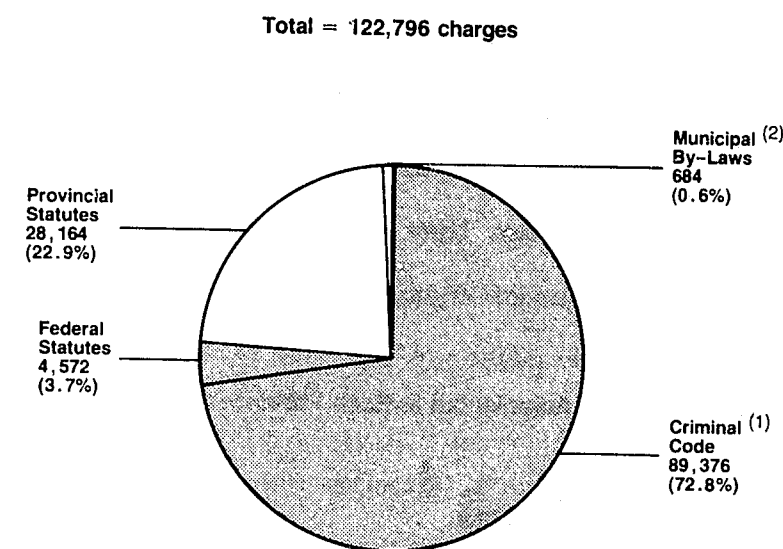


(1) Refers to charges under the Juvenile Delinquents Act or equivalent provincial legislation. Based on the numbers given in Table 1 (Canada, total = 122,796 charges).

⁷ An adult is here defined as a person whose age was above the upper limit of the age jurisdiction of the juvenile court in the province at the time the offence was committed.

Figure 2 illustrates how these charges are distributed by class of charge. It can be seen that Criminal Code⁸ and other federal statute offences, the shaded portion, collectively account for 76.5% of the total.

FIGURE 2
Classification of Charges of Delinquency Adjudicated in Canada in 1981



- (1) The shaded portion of the diagram indicates the proportion of offences (76.5%) which would have been covered by the Young Offenders Act if it had been in effect (barring changes in age jurisdiction) in 1981.
(2) Quebec reported 530 or 77.5% of the total 684 municipal by-law offences.

Although provincial statute offences represent 22.9% of the Canada total, Manitoba and British Columbia together contributed 20,779 or 73.8% of all such charges reported. When the distribution of charges for all the jurisdictions excluding Manitoba and British Columbia is examined, it is found that provincial statute offences constitute only 9.7% of the total count. The number and proportion of Criminal Code, other federal statute, provincial statute and municipal by-law violations, for each province, are indicated in Table 1.

8 R.S.C. 1970, c. C-34.

TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF CHARGES BY CLASS OF CHARGE AND BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY ¹,
1981

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	CLASS OF CHARGE				TOTAL
	CRIMINAL CODE	OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES	PROVINCIAL STATUTES	MUNICIPAL BY-LAWS	
NEWFOUNDLAND	2,915 ² (78.3)	142 (3.8)	651 (17.5)	14 (0.4)	3,722 [3.0] ³
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	233 (96.7)	3 (1.2)	5 (2.1)	0 (0.0)	241 [0.2]
NOVA SCOTIA	1,516 (79.3)	70 (3.7)	322 (16.8)	4 (0.2)	1,912 [1.6]
NEW BRUNSWICK	1,512 (89.9)	40 (2.4)	127 (7.6)	2 (0.1)	1,681 [1.4]
QUEBEC	23,800 (86.6)	1,274 (4.6)	1,874 (6.8)	530 (1.9)	27,478 [22.4]
ONTARIO	22,523 (83.4)	1,399 (5.2)	3,029 (11.2)	41 (0.2)	26,992 [22.0]
MANITOBA	11,813 (47.8)	499 (2.0)	12,380 (50.0)	42 (0.2)	24,734 [20.1]
SASKATCHEWAN	2,763 (97.9)	31 (1.1)	27 (1.0)	0 (0.0)	2,821 [2.3]
ALBERTA	8,952 (85.5)	210 (2.0)	1,272 (12.1)	36 (0.3)	10,470 [8.5]
BRITISH COLUMBIA	12,562 (57.4)	898 (4.1)	8,399 (38.4)	15 (0.1)	21,874 [17.8]
YUKON	248 (91.2)	3 (1.1)	21 (7.7)	0 (0.0)	272 [0.2]
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	539 (90.0)	3 (0.5)	57 (9.5)	0 (0.0)	599 [0.5]
CANADA	89,376 (72.8)	4,572 (3.7)	28,164 (22.9)	684 (0.6)	122,796

NOTES:

- (1) This table is based on the total charge count which includes charges against adults, against persons of undetermined age, and against juveniles less than 14 years of age in Quebec.
- (2) The figure in the top of each cell is the number of charges of the class indicated. The figure in curved brackets is the percentage of the row total. Thus, the 2,915 Criminal Code charges counted for Newfoundland account for 78.3% of the total provincial charge count.
- (3) The figures in square brackets in this column represent the percentage of the column total. Therefore, the total provincial charge count of 3,722 charges for Newfoundland represents 3.0% of the total 122,796 charges.

The remainder of this report will deal only with Criminal Code and other federal statute offences, henceforth referred to as federal statute offences.

In Table 2 the proportion of federal statute charges reported by each province is displayed. Quebec and Ontario have by far the highest number of charges, accounting for 26.4% and 25.8% of the total 91,090 federal statute charges respectively⁹. Together, the Atlantic provinces, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories account for 10.4% of the total count, while British Columbia, Manitoba, and Alberta contribute 14.5%, 13.3%, and 9.6% respectively.

To provide a better basis for comparison, however, it is important to consider variations in both the age jurisdictions of the juvenile courts of the provinces and the size of the juvenile populations served. Table 2 gives the distribution of the number of charges reported by each province for each age group "at risk" and also provides for each age group, a charge rate, i.e., a rate in terms of the number of charges adjudicated per 1000 juveniles in the age group. An "overall rate" for each province is also provided in the table. It should be interpreted as a gross measure of the intensity of demand for services (in the form of adjudication of charges) placed on the juvenile courts of a province by the particular population within their age jurisdiction. The populations on which these rates are based are given in Appendix A.

⁹ Note that this total of 91,090 charges excludes charges against adults, against persons of unknown age and against juveniles less than 14 years of age in Quebec.

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF FEDERAL STATUTE CHARGES ADJUDICATED AND CHARGE RATES¹ BY AGE AND BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY, 1981 (BOTH SEXES INCLUDED)

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	AGE							TOTAL COUNT ² OVERALL RATE ³	TOTAL COUNT AS PERCENT OF GRAND TOTAL
	7-11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
NEWFOUNDLAND	56 1.0	170 14.0	346 27.9	572 45.4	917 68.4	921 68.2		2,982 24.2	3.3%
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	11 1.1	11 5.0	24 10.9	80 36.4	107 44.6			233 12.0	0.2%
NOVA SCOTIA	131 1.9	115 8.3	220 15.4	405 27.2	674 42.1			1,545 12.0	1.7%
NEW BRUNSWICK	89 1.5	127 10.6	197 15.9	405 31.4	636 45.8			1,454 13.1	1.6%
QUEBEC				2,590 25.1	5,384 47.9	7,493 60.2	8,542 67.3	24,009 51.4	26.4%
ONTARIO	1,393 2.2	1,725 13.1	3,519 26.4	6,468 46.9	10,375 69.2			23,480 19.6	25.8%
MANITOBA	81 1.0	546 33.7	1,036 64.0	1,642 99.5	2,447 136.7	2,936 152.9	3,419 172.7	12,107 64.8	13.3%
SASKATCHEWAN	74 1.0	174 10.9	432 27.2	910 56.2	1,154 65.2			2,744 19.1	3.0%
ALBERTA	242 1.4	811 23.0	1,742 49.4	2,569 71.8	3,404 91.0			8,768 27.4	9.6%
BRITISH COLUMBIA	199 1.0	467 11.2	1,121 27.6	2,767 67.3	3,605 83.3	5,017 106.3		13,176 32.0	14.5%
YUKON	25 11.9	6 15.0	26 65.0	81 202.5	63 157.5			201 54.3	0.2%
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	46 8.7	41 37.3	93 93.0	109 109.0	102 102.0			391 41.6	0.4%
CANADA ⁵	2,347 1.7	4,193 14.8	8,756 30.8	18,598 47.1	28,868 67.8	16,367 80.1	11,961 81.5	91,090 29.2	100.0%

NOTES:

- (1) The figure appearing in the upper left corner of a cell is the number of charges reported for the age group indicated in the column heading. The figure in the lower right is the charge rate obtained by dividing the number of charges by the appropriate population estimate in thousands. (All population estimates used may be found in Appendix A.) Thus, for example, 546 charges were adjudicated for 12 year olds in Manitoba, yielding a charge rate of 33.7 charges per 1000 twelve year olds in the province.
- (2) The totals appearing in this column are the totals for the age groups shown for each province. Thus, charges against juveniles for whom age was not reported, charges against adults, and charges against juveniles under 14 in Quebec (altogether 2,858 charges) are excluded from this table.
- (3) The overall rate is the total charge count shown in the upper left of the cell divided by the population estimate (in thousands) of persons in the age jurisdiction of the province's juvenile courts. Age groups excluded from the jurisdiction are indicated by the shaded cells.
- (4) A small number of federal statute charges (168) were reported by Quebec juvenile courts for persons 10 to 13 years of age.
- (5) Rates for Canada are based only on the total population falling within the age jurisdiction of the juvenile courts and not on the national total population in the age group. Thus, the national rate for 12 year olds, for example, excludes the population of 12 year olds in Quebec.

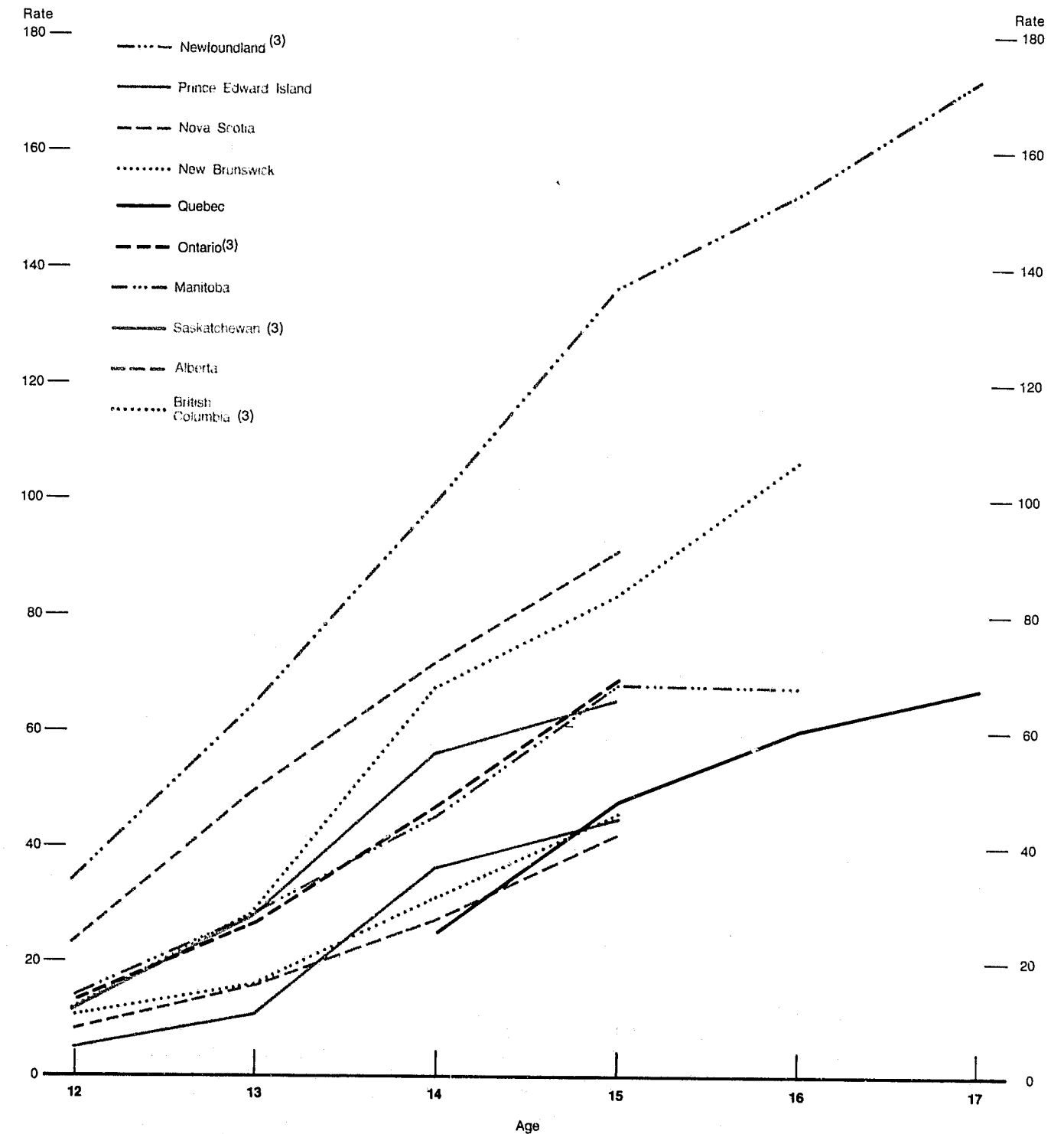
Consider the overall rates for Quebec and Ontario of 51.4 and 19.6 respectively. The large difference in these figures is a reflection of the different age jurisdictions: 14 to 17 years in Quebec and 7 to 15 years in Ontario. For the only two age groups which these two jurisdictions have in common, namely 14 and 15 year olds, it can be seen that the Ontario charge rates far exceed those of Quebec, indicating a greater tendency in Ontario to refer charges to court for formal disposition.

Manitoba, a relatively small province in terms of juvenile population at risk (186.8 thousand) has the highest overall charge rate for federal statute offences, i.e., 64.8 per thousand juvenile population. Moreover, within any given age group (except the 7-11 year olds) the charge rate exceeds that of all other provinces¹⁰. For example, the rates for 16 and 17 year olds in Manitoba are much higher than those in Quebec. Also, the rates for the 12 to 15 year age groups in Manitoba far exceed those in Saskatchewan, even though these two provinces have nearly identical juvenile populations. (See Appendix A).

The differences and similarities in charge rates amongst the provinces and the patterns of change in rate with increasing age can be observed in Figure 3. The rates for Manitoba increase sharply from 64.0 for 13 year olds to 136.7 for 15 year olds. There is also a very steep increase in rate between 13 and 14 years in British Columbia (from 27.6 to 67.3). On the whole, all the provinces undergo an increase in charge rate with

¹⁰ The Yukon has higher rates for all age groups except 12 year olds, and the Northwest Territories has higher rates for all but the 15 year age group. However, these jurisdictions have such small populations that in many cases the charge rate is actually higher than the number of charges adjudicated for the age group.

FIGURE 3
Charge Rates ⁽¹⁾ for Age 12 to Upper Limit of Age Jurisdiction, for Each Province ⁽²⁾, 1981
(Both Sexes Included)

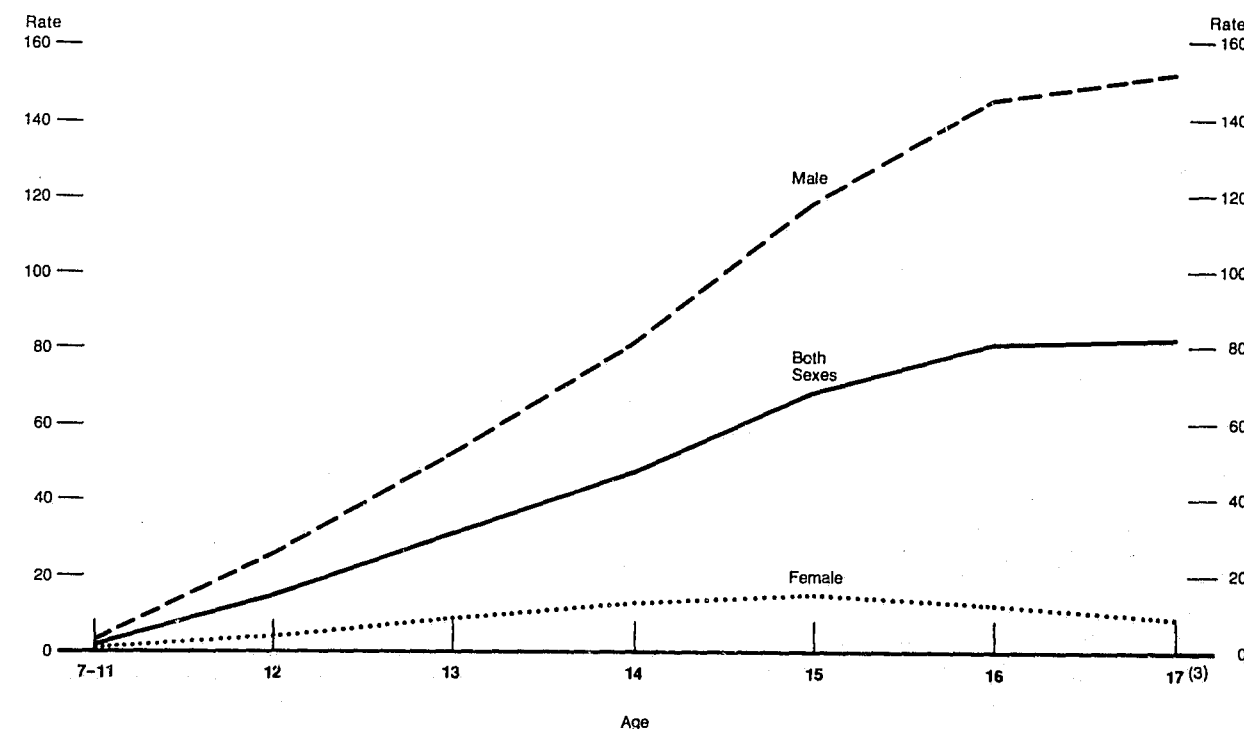


(1) A charge rate here is defined as the number of federal statute charges adjudicated per 1,000 population of that age in the province.
(2) Graphs for the Yukon and Northwest Territories have not been included. See Table 2 for the rates for these jurisdictions.
(3) For a more precise reading of the rate for the 12 and 13 year age groups in this province it is necessary to refer to Table 2.

increasing age, the one exception to this being Newfoundland for which there appears to be a levelling off in rate between the 15 and 16 year age groups.

Male juveniles accounted for approximately 90% of all federal statute charges adjudicated in the juvenile courts in 1981. It is therefore interesting to observe the patterns of change in rate with increasing age for each sex separately. Figure 4 displays charge rates for all age groups, differentiated by sex, based on the juvenile populations at risk (see Note 2 to Figure 4). Not only are the female charge rates much lower than those for males; they do not show the same tendency to increase with increasing age.

FIGURE 4
Charge Rates ⁽¹⁾ by Age ⁽²⁾, for Males, Females, and Both Sexes, 1981



(1) A charge rate is defined as the number of federal statute charges adjudicated per 1,000 population of that age.
(2) The population at risk, on which these rates are based, excludes Quebec juveniles less than 14 years of age. Only Newfoundland, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia have 16 years olds "at risk", and only Quebec and Manitoba have 17 year olds "at risk".
(3) The rates for 17 year olds are based on Manitoba and Quebec only. The Manitoba rates far exceed those for Quebec. (Manitoba males, 311.9; Quebec males 126.9; Manitoba females, 30.9; Quebec females, 4.7).

PERSON COUNTS AND RATES

Most of the data presented in this report are based on counts of the number of charges adjudicated by the juvenile courts in the various jurisdictions. For some purposes, however, it is more interesting or appropriate to consider the number of juveniles actually involved in the court process. An estimate of this number can be made by linking together all the charges reported for any individual by the juvenile courts within a province during the calendar year¹¹.

There are two very important points to note about the derived person count. The first is that the linkage is highly dependent on the consistency and accuracy of the identifying information provided on the records and that, as a result, it is subject to failures. In other words there is a tendency to overestimate the number of juveniles involved in the charges reported¹². The second point is that one province with a relatively high charge count, namely British Columbia, did not supply sufficient identifying information in 1981 to make the linking of charges to individuals possible. This means that analysis dependent on person counts cannot be performed at the "national" level and discussions focusing on comparisons amongst the provinces based on person counts necessarily exclude British Columbia.

¹¹ A brief explanation of how the linkage is made may be found in Juvenile Delinquents, 1981, p. 10. See also, Appendix B.

¹² For estimates of the error associated with the linkage for each province, see Appendix B. The person count is, in this sense, less "accurate" than the charge count from which it is derived.

TABLE 3: ESTIMATED NUMBER OF JUVENILES APPEARING ON FEDERAL STATUTE CHARGES AND PERSON RATES ¹, BY AGE AND BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY, 1981 (BOTH SEXES INCLUDED)

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	AGE							TOTAL PERSON COUNT ² OVERALL RATE ³	TOTAL PERSON COUNT AS % OF GRAND TOTAL
	7-11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
NEWFOUNDLAND	36 0.6	86 7.1	182 14.7	295 23.4	424 31.6	458 33.9		1,481 12.0	5.0%
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	9 0.9	9 4.1	17 7.7	36 16.3	47 19.6			118 6.1	0.4%
NOVA SCOTIA	91 1.3	76 5.5	126 8.8	228 15.3	383 23.9			904 7.1	3.1%
NEW BRUNSWICK	54 0.9	66 5.5	100 8.1	233 18.1	319 23.0			772 6.9	2.6%
QUEBEC				552 5.3	1,089 9.7	1,517 12.2	2,119 16.7	5,277 11.3	17.9%
ONTARIO	837 1.3	934 7.1	1,729 13.0	3,093 22.4	5,037 33.6			11,630 9.7	39.4%
MANITOBA	35 0.4	179 11.1	365 22.5	551 33.4	746 41.7	1,050 54.7	1,260 63.6	4,186 22.4	14.2%
SASKATCHEWAN	36 0.5	80 5.0	140 8.8	269 16.6	382 21.6			907 6.3	3.1%
ALBERTA	102 0.6	371 10.5	777 22.0	1,165 32.5	1,590 42.5			4,005 12.5	13.6%
BRITISH COLUMBIA ⁵	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
YUKON	5 2.4	4 10.0	9 22.5	20 50.0	24 60.0			62 16.8	0.2%
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	26 4.9	19 17.3	39 39.0	39 39.0	60 60.0			183 19.5	0.6%
CANADA ⁶	1,231 1.0	1,824 7.6	3,484 14.3	6,481 18.3	10,101 26.4	3,025 19.2	3,379 23.0	29,525 10.9	100.0%

NOTES:

- (1) The figure appearing in the upper left corner of a cell is the estimated number of juveniles in the age group indicated in the column heading who appeared in court in 1981 and had their charge(s) adjudicated. The figure in the lower right of a cell is the person rate, i.e., a rate calculated by dividing the number of persons by the population estimate, in thousands, for the age group concerned. (Population estimates are found in Appendix A.) Thus, an estimated 1,089 juveniles 15 years of age had federal statute charges adjudicated in Quebec, yielding a rate of 9.7 juveniles appearing per 1000 fifteen year olds in the province.
- (2) The totals in this column are the totals for the age groups shown for each province. Thus juveniles of unknown age and adults who appeared on charges under the Juvenile Delinquents Act are not included here.
- (3) The overall person rate is the total person count for the province (upper left of cell) divided by the population estimate, in thousands, of persons in the age jurisdiction of the province's juvenile courts. E.g., 9.7 juveniles had charges adjudicated in Ontario per 1000 juveniles 7 to 15 years old in the province.
- (4) An estimated 33 juveniles 10 to 13 years of age had federal statute charges adjudicated in 1981 in Quebec.
- (5) Estimates not available
- (6) These total rates are based only on the population falling within the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts and not on the national total population in the age group. Note also that British Columbia is excluded from the table and its population is not included in the calculation of rates for Canada.

Table 3 displays rates based on the estimated number of persons having federal statute charges adjudicated in 1981, for each age group and for the jurisdiction overall, exactly as Table 2 displays the charge rates.

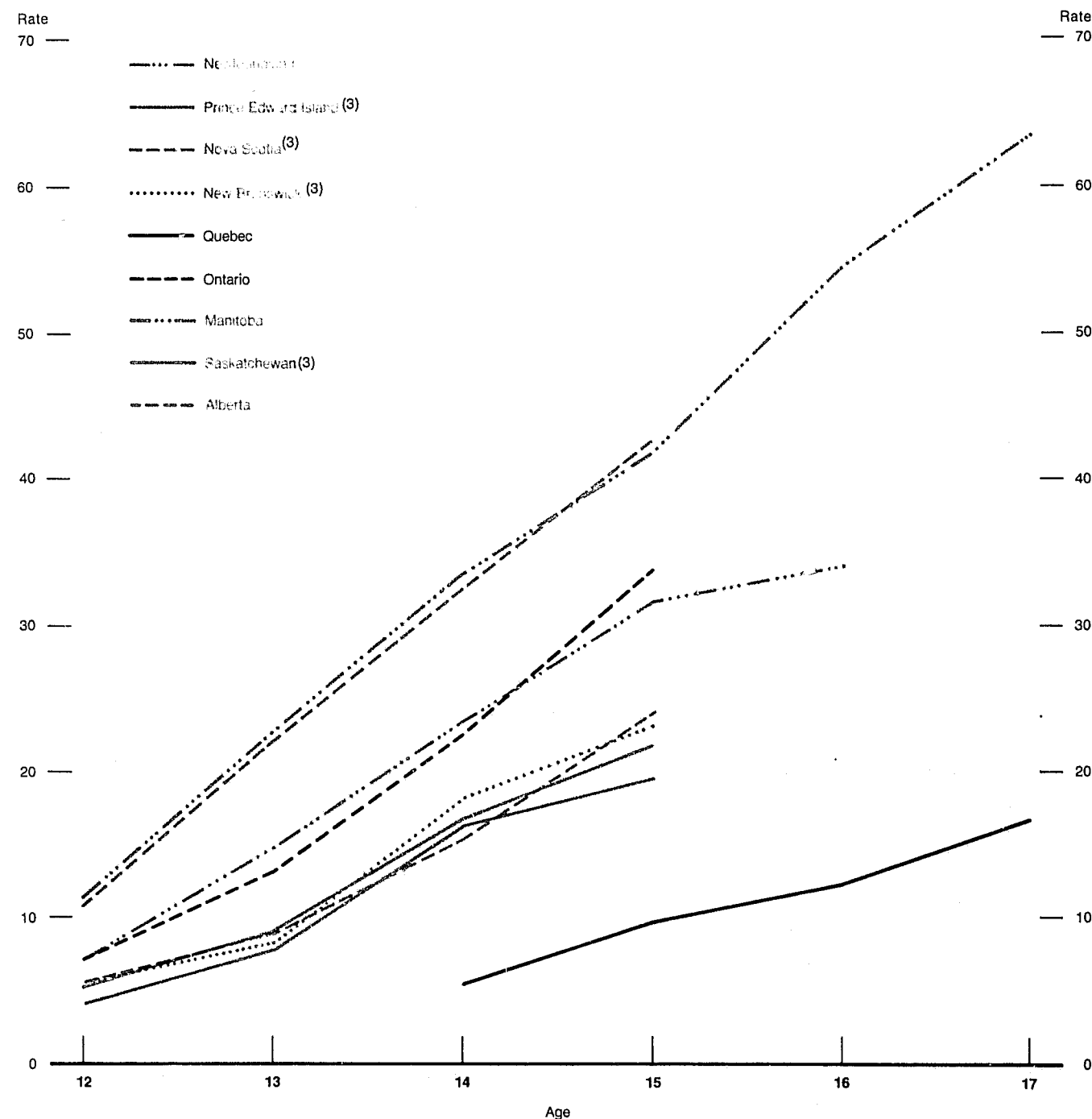
Person rates, as opposed to charge rates, may be interpreted as a measure of the extent to which the juvenile population in the courts' jurisdiction has been exposed to formal court processing in the course of the year. They are somewhat less appropriate than charge rates as a measure of the "demand for service" placed on the courts, as one individual may appear in court several times during the year on any number of charges¹³.

The same general trends can be observed in Table 3 based on person counts as were apparent in Table 2 based on charge counts, i.e., numbers of persons and rates tend to increase as the age of the juveniles increases. In Figure 5 the provincial patterns of change in person rate with age can be readily compared. If this Figure is contrasted with Figure 3, it can be seen that the placement of the provinces relative to one another changes. For example, the person rates for Quebec are much lower relative to the other provinces than is true for the charge rates. This suggests that a comparatively high proportion of juveniles appearing in court in Quebec faced several charges during the year¹⁴.

¹³ Neither the person count nor the charge count can be "equated" with the number of cases processed by the juvenile courts.

¹⁴ This appears consistent with a policy of referring more serious offenders to court and applying alternative measures in less serious cases.

FIGURE 5
Person Rates ⁽¹⁾ for Age 12 to Upper Limit of Age Jurisdiction, for Each Province ⁽²⁾, 1981
(Both Sexes Included)



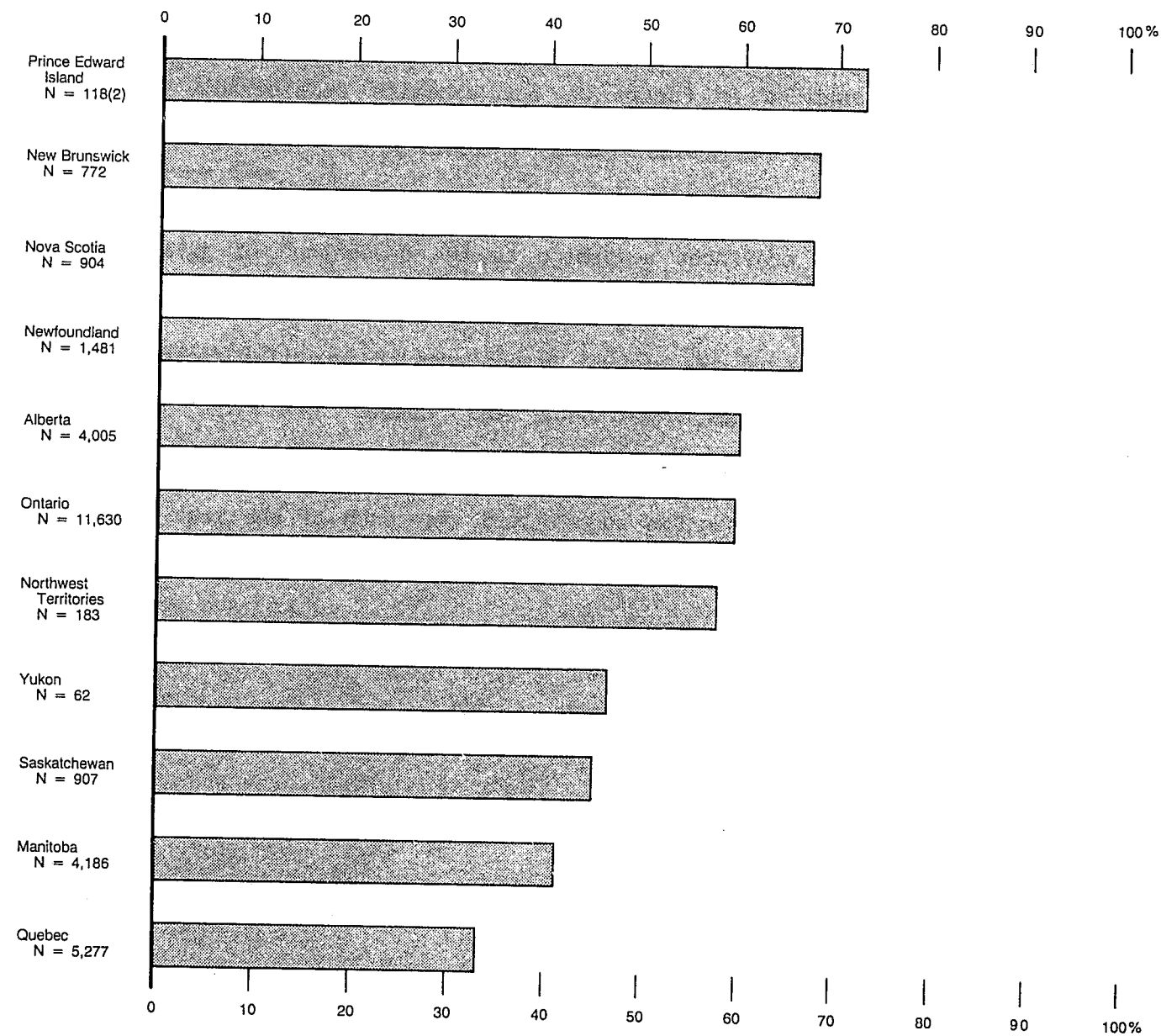
(1) A "person rate" is defined here as the number of persons of a given age having charges (involving federal statute offences only) adjudicated in the juvenile courts of a province, per 1000 population of that age in the province.
(2) Graphs for the Yukon and Northwest Territories are not shown. See Table 3 for person rates for these jurisdictions. British Columbia is excluded because no person counts can be estimated for that province.
(3) For a more precise reading of the rates for the age groups 12 to 14 for each of these provinces see Table 3.

The Alberta and Manitoba graphs tend to coincide in Figure 5, indicating that the much higher charge rates observed for Manitoba relative to Alberta, in Figure 3, are in part attributable to a larger proportion of Manitoba juveniles having multiple charges processed. A similar inference may be made for Saskatchewan which has charge rates approximating those for Ontario and Newfoundland in Figure 3, but exhibits considerably lower person rates than those two jurisdictions in Figure 5.

Figure 6A orders the provinces according to the percentage of juveniles having charges adjudicated in 1981 who appeared on only one charge. The four Atlantic provinces had the highest percentages of juveniles facing one charge, while Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Quebec had the lowest proportions. Figure 6B shows the distribution of the person count, by the number of charges each person had adjudicated, for each of the last three provinces, and for all the other jurisdictions (excluding British Columbia) combined.

FIGURE 6A

Juveniles Having Only One Federal Statute Charge Adjudicated, As a Percentage of All Juveniles Having This Type of Charge Adjudicated in 1981, for Each Province/Territory⁽¹⁾

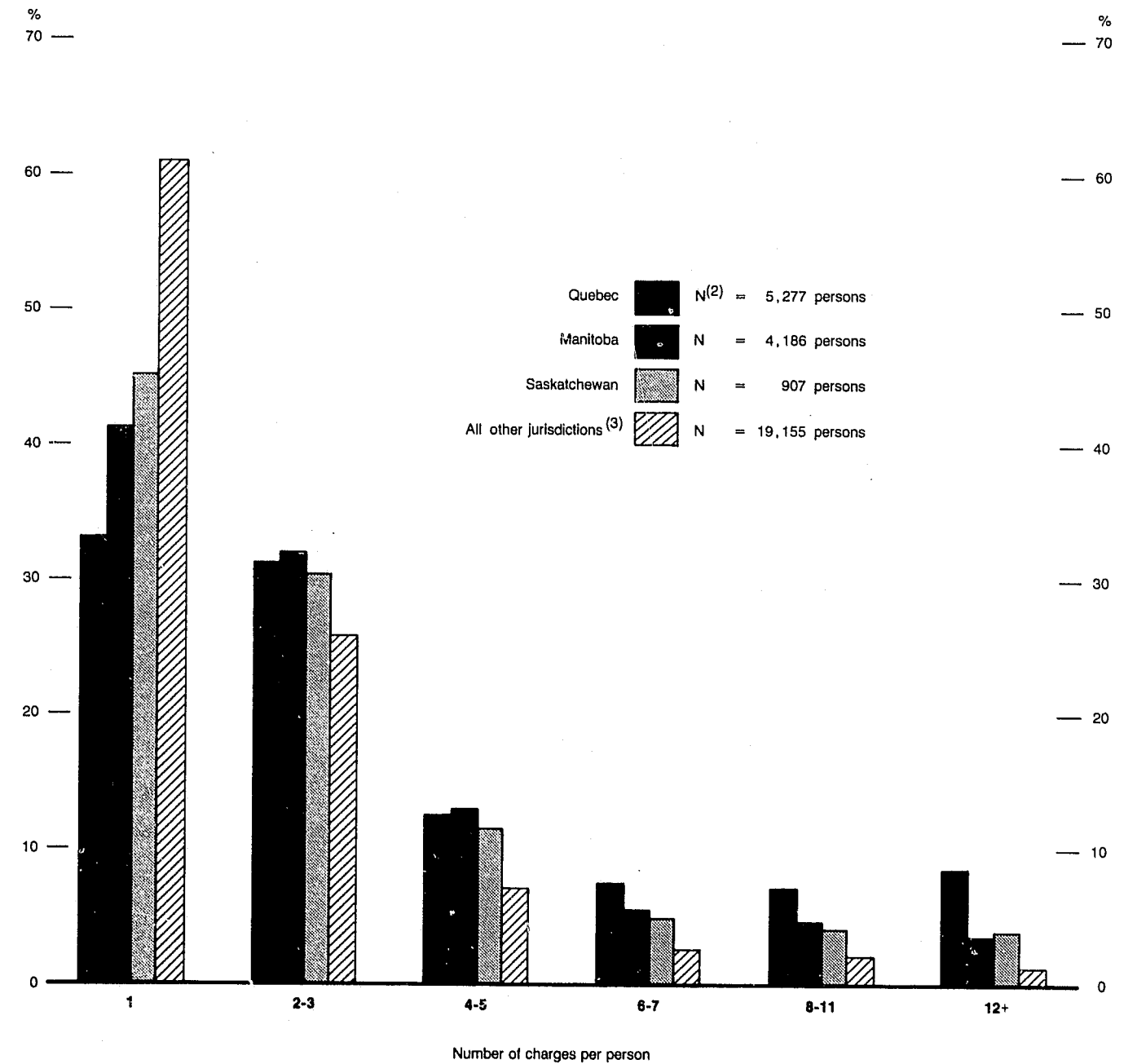


(1) Data are not available for British Columbia.

(2) N is the total person count for the province for federal statute offences. These counts exclude persons of unknown age, adults, and an estimated 33 juveniles less than 14 years of age in Quebec. To illustrate how the chart is to be read, consider the example of Prince Edward Island: "72.9% of 118 juveniles having federal statute charges adjudicated in 1981 appeared in court on only one charge."

FIGURE 6B

Percent Distribution of Juveniles Appearing in Court on Federal Statute Charges, By Number of Charges Adjudicated for Each Juvenile in 1981⁽¹⁾

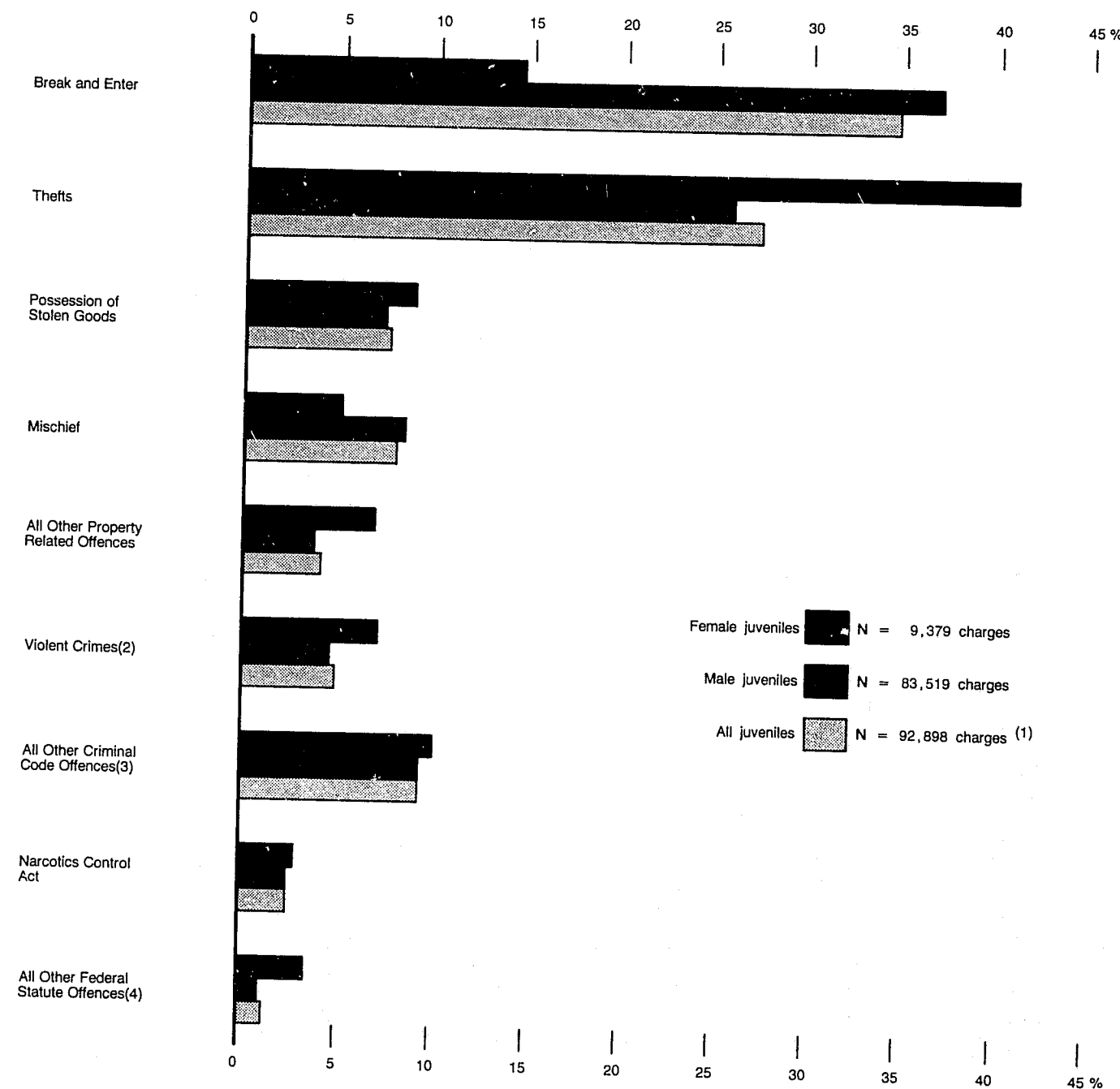


(1) To illustrate how this chart is read, consider the bar for Quebec at one charge per person: "33.2% of juveniles appearing in juvenile court in Quebec in 1981 on federal statute charges had one charge adjudicated."

(2) N is the total person count for this class of charge, excluding adults, persons of unknown age, and 33 juveniles less than 14 years of age in Quebec.

(3) "All other jurisdictions" excludes British Columbia for which linking of charges to individuals is not possible.

FIGURE 7
Percent Distribution of the Federal Statute Charge Count, by Type of Offence, for Canada, 1981



- (1) These figures exclude charges against adults. Charges against persons of undetermined age and juveniles less than 14 years of age in Quebec are included. Hence the total number of charges (92,898) is greater than that shown in Table 2 (91,090).
 (2) Includes murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, assaults, robbery and sexual offences.
 (3) Includes 25 categories of offences, including over 230 sections of the Criminal Code.
 (4) Includes the Food and Drugs Act, the Juvenile Delinquents Act (sections 2, 20(3), 33 and 34), and other federal statutes.

TYPES OF FEDERAL STATUTE CHARGES ADJUDICATED

Having considered the overall counts and rates for federal statute charges adjudicated in the various jurisdictions, we may now look more closely at the specific nature of these offences by juveniles. Figure 7 illustrates how the total number of charges is distributed (on a percentage basis) by type of charge, for male, female, and all juveniles. The first five types of charges shown in the figure are all property-related and sum to 81.9% for all juveniles, 82.5% for male juveniles, and 76.5% for female juveniles.

Although the female charge count, (9,379), is considerably lower than that for male juveniles, (83,519), some differences in the proportions of certain types of charges may be noted. Break and enter is, for example, the charge most frequently adjudicated against males (37.0% of the total male count), followed by thefts at 25.9%. However, break and enter accounts for only 14.5% of the total female count, while thefts stand at 41.1%.

Female juveniles had a slightly higher proportion of charges involving violence (671 charges or 7.2% of the total female count) than did male juveniles (3,902 or 4.7% of the total male count). For males and females together, assaults and robberies accounted for 88.2% of the charges of this type adjudicated in the juvenile courts.

TABLE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY - RELATED OFFENCES, VIOLENT OFFENCES ¹ AND ALL FEDERAL STATUTE OFFENCES BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY, 1981

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	PROPERTY-RELATED OFFENCES ²			VIOLENT OFFENCES ³			ALL FEDERAL STATUTE OFFENCES	
	NUMBER	PERCENT OF JURISDICTIONAL TOTAL - FEDERAL OFFENCES	PERCENT OF NATIONAL TOTAL PROPERTY OFFENCES	NUMBER	PERCENT OF JURISDICTIONAL TOTAL - FEDERAL OFFENCES	PERCENT OF NATIONAL TOTAL - VIOLENT OFFENCES	NUMBER	PERCENT OF NATIONAL TOTAL
NEWFOUNDLAND	2,628	86.4	3.5	79	2.6	1.7	3,043	3.3
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	222	94.1	0.3	2	0.8	0.0	236	0.3
NOVA SCOTIA	1,343	85.1	1.8	73	4.6	1.6	1,579	1.7
NEW BRUNSWICK	1,383	89.1	1.8	56	3.6	1.2	1,552	1.7
QUEBEC	19,541	80.2	25.7	1,510	6.2	33.0	24,370	26.2
ONTARIO	19,482	82.3	25.6	1,293	5.5	28.3	23,671	25.5
MANITOBA	9,643	78.3	12.7	599	4.9	13.1	12,309	13.3
SASKATCHEWAN	2,420	86.6	3.2	86	3.1	1.9	2,793	3.0
ALBERTA	8,059	88.0	10.6	286	3.1	6.2	9,162	9.9
BRITISH COLUMBIA	10,585	79.1	13.9	576	4.3	12.6	13,390	14.4
YUKON	241	96.0	0.3	1	0.4	0.0	251	0.3
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	501	92.4	0.7	12	2.2	0.3	542	0.6
CANADA	76,048	81.9	100.0	4,573	4.9	100.0	92,898	100.0

NOTES:

- (1) Charges against persons of both sexes are included. Charges against adults are excluded, but charges against persons of unknown age and persons under 14 years of age in Quebec are included. Thus, the total count of federal statute charges on which the table is based is 92,898.
- (2) The property-related offences include: break and enter, all thefts, possession of stolen goods, mischief, and other property offences.
- (3) The violent offences include: murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, assaults, robbery, and sexual offences.

Table 4 and Figure 8 show the distribution, by province, of all property-related offences, violent offences, and all federal statute offences.

At the national level, property-related offences accounted for 81.9% of all federal statute charges adjudicated. There is some variation amongst provinces, however, with this percentage ranging from a low of 78.3% in Manitoba to a high of 96.0% in the Yukon. The three smallest jurisdictions, Prince Edward Island, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories, had the highest proportions of property offences (94.1%, 96.0% and 92.4% respectively). Quebec and Ontario together accounted for 51.3% of the national total number of property-related offences adjudicated.

Violent offences accounted for 4.9% of all federal statute charges adjudicated. Quebec and Ontario both had relatively high proportions of violent offences: 6.2% and 5.5% respectively. On the other hand, Prince Edward Island with 0.8%, the Yukon with 0.4% and the Northwest Territories with 2.2% had the lowest proportions of these offences. The provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia together accounted for 93.2% of the national total number of charges involving violent offences.

An examination of the rates for property offences and violent offences, for males, ages 12 to 17, reveals an interesting point: the rates for property offences tend to level off as the upper age limit is approached, whereas, for violent crimes, these rates increase sharply with increasing age (see Figure 9).

FIGURE 8
Percent Distribution of Federal Statute Offences, by Type of Offence,
for Each Province/Territory, 1981

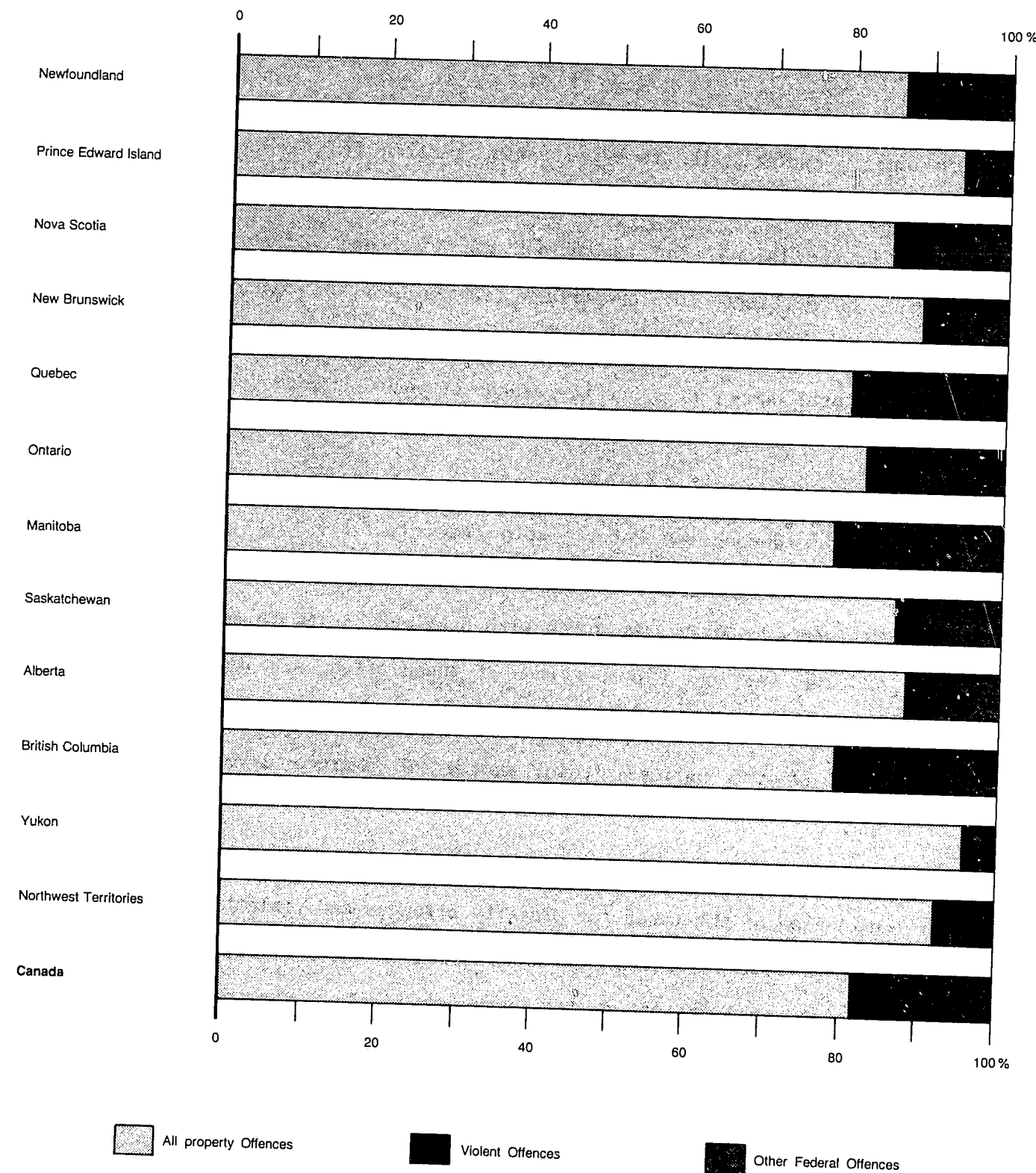
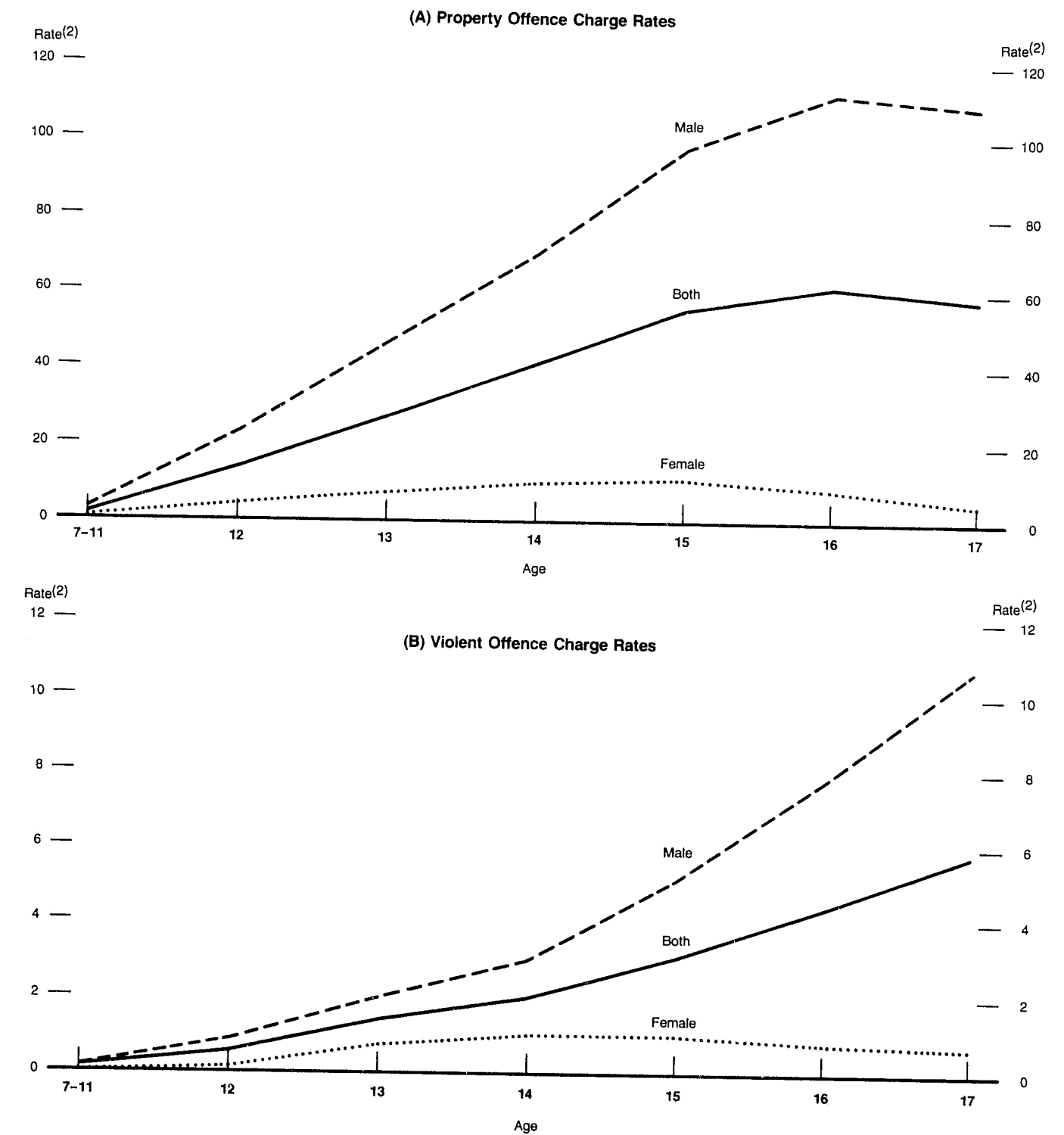


FIGURE 9
Charge Rates by Age⁽¹⁾ for (A) Property Offences and (B) Violent Offences, Canada, 1981



(1) The population at risk, on which these rates are based, excludes Quebec juveniles less than 14 years of age. Only Newfoundland, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia have 16 year olds "at risk" and only Manitoba and Quebec have 17 year olds "at risk".
(2) The rate is defined as the number of (A) property offences (see Note 2, Table 4) or (B) violent offences (see Note 3, Table 4) adjudicated per 1,000 population at risk in each age group.

ADJUDICATIONS

Overall, 75.0% of the charges pertaining to federal statute offences adjudicated in Canada's juvenile courts in 1981 resulted in findings of delinquency. As can be seen in Table 5, this overall conviction rate¹⁵ is somewhat depressed by three provinces with relatively high charge counts and particularly low conviction rates; namely, Ontario (66.5%), Manitoba, (56.1%) and British Columbia (68.3%). The conviction rate for all other jurisdictions excluding these three is 87.1%. (See Figure 10 for the conviction rate for each province). Table 5 also displays the number of guilty findings and the conviction rate for each of nine types of charges. The low conviction rates observed at the national level for possession of stolen goods (56.3%) and the category of violent crimes (68.6%) are evidently due to the very low rates of conviction for these types of charges in the three exceptional provinces. Indeed, for the group of all jurisdictions excluding Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia, there is very little variation in conviction rates for the various types of offences.

Manitoba, a province with a very high rate of charges adjudicated per 1000 population for each of the age groups in its jurisdiction, as well as a high overall rate and a relatively high charge count, shows a surprisingly low proportion of charges resulting in guilty findings. This contrasts sharply with Quebec, the province with the highest number of charges and

¹⁵ The term "conviction rate" is defined here as the number of charges resulting in convictions, expressed as a percentage of the total number of charges adjudicated.

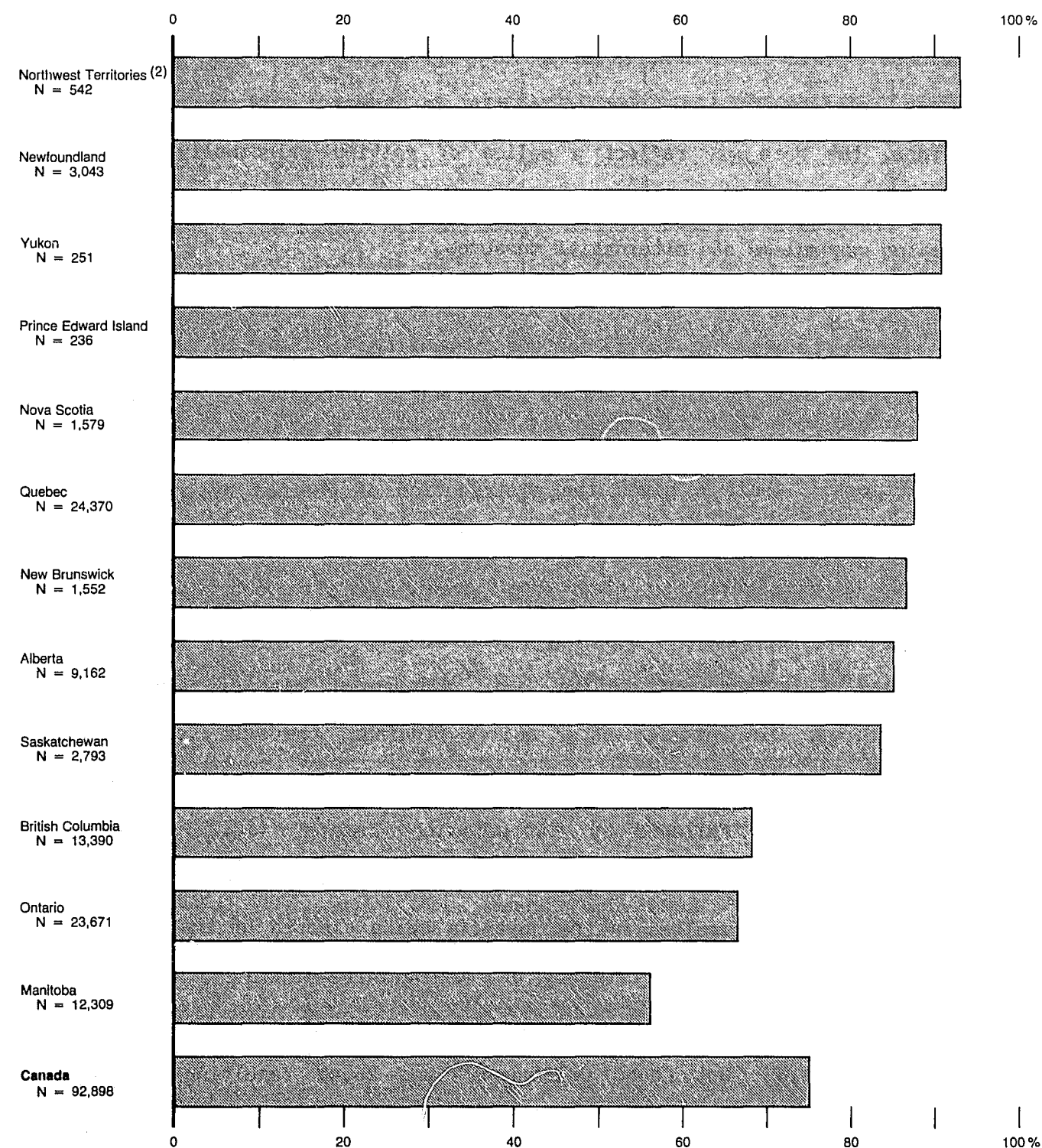
TABLE 5: NUMBER OF FEDERAL STATUTE CHARGES BY NATURE OF CHARGE, AND
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF CHARGES¹ LEADING TO FINDING OF GUILTY,
SELECTED PROVINCES AND CANADA, 1981
(BOTH SEXES INCLUDED)

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	BREAK AND ENTER	THEFTS	POSSESS STOLEN GOODS	MISCHIEF	ALL OTHER PROPERTY	SUB-TOTAL PROPERTY	VIOLENT CRIMES	OTHER CRIMINAL CODE	NARCOTICS CONTROL	OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES	TOTAL
ONTARIO											
NUMBER OF CHARGES	6,202	7,765	2,470	1,966	1,079	19,482	1,293	1,748	583	565	23,671
NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY FINDINGS	4,635	5,354	1,083	1,199	759	13,030	820	1,072	395	419	15,736
% FOUND DELINQUENT	74.7	69.0	43.9	61.0	70.3	66.9	63.4	61.3	67.8	74.2	66.5
MANITOBA											
NUMBER OF CHARGES	3,637	3,415	588	1,318	685	9,643	599	1,570	409	88	12,309
NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY FINDINGS	2,128	1,924	243	786	384	5,465	256	917	235	34	6,907
% FOUND DELINQUENT	58.5	56.3	41.3	59.6	56.1	56.7	42.7	58.4	57.5	38.6	56.1
BRITISH COLUMBIA											
NUMBER OF CHARGES	4,142	3,575	1,331	1,051	486	10,585	576	1,401	460	368	13,390
NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY FINDINGS	3,227	2,455	528	702	372	7,284	353	814	358	334	9,143
% FOUND DELINQUENT	77.9	68.7	39.7	66.8	76.5	68.8	61.3	58.1	77.8	90.8	68.3
ALL OTHER JURISDICTIONS											
NUMBER OF CHARGES	18,273	10,716	2,637	3,141	1,571	36,338	2,105	4,035	869	181	43,528
NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY FINDINGS	16,275	9,488	2,098	2,685	1,405	31,951	1,706	3,341	768	140	37,906
% FOUND DELINQUENT	89.1	88.5	79.6	85.5	89.4	87.9	81.0	82.8	88.4	77.3	87.1 ²
CANADA - TOTAL											
NUMBER OF CHARGES	32,254	25,471	7,026	7,476	3,821	76,048	4,573	8,754	2,321	1,202	92,898
NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY FINDINGS	26,265	19,221	3,952	5,372	2,920	57,730	3,135	6,144	1,756	927	69,692
% FOUND DELINQUENT	81.4	75.5	56.3	71.9	76.4	75.9	68.6	70.2	75.7	77.1	75.0

NOTES:

- (1) The total charge count of 92,898 on which this table is based includes charges against persons of unknown age and juveniles less than 14 years old in Quebec. Charges against adults are excluded.
- (2) There is very little variation among these "other jurisdictions" in terms of the overall percentage of convictions: Nfld., 91.5%; P.E.I., 90.7%; N.S., 87.9%; N.B., 86.6%; Quebec, 87.5%; Sask., 83.4%; Alta., 85.0%; Yukon, 90.8%; N.W.T., 93.0%.

FIGURE 10
Percentage of Federal Statute Charges⁽¹⁾ Resulting
In Findings of Delinquency, by Province/Territory, 1981



- (1) Charges against adults are excluded.
- (2) N = the total charge count for federal offences in their province. Thus, 93.0% of 542 charges of delinquency in the Northwest Territories resulted in findings of delinquency.

the second highest overall charge rate, but relatively low charge rates for the age groups within its jurisdiction. Quebec has one of the highest proportions of charges resulting in guilty findings (87.5%) of all the provinces. This is indicative of a very effective system for screening charges referred to the juvenile courts in Quebec. In the case of Manitoba, the data may reflect a policy of relying principally on the juvenile court to dispose of delinquency cases rather than on preliminary screening mechanisms and alternative measures.

Given the comparatively low percentage of guilty findings in the three provinces featured in Table 5, it is important to consider how the fairly large proportion of other findings was distributed in each of these jurisdictions. Table 6 gives the distribution of charges by nature of adjudication. Adjudications classified as "Not Found Delinquent" are those that can be considered to clear the juvenile of the charge. Those classified as "No Definite Finding" are outcomes which leave open the possibility of further court action, e.g., adjournment sine die and stays of proceedings. In Ontario, after guilty findings, the most frequently reported types of adjudications are those classified as "Not Found Delinquent" (20.0%) followed by "No Definite Finding" (12.2%). This contrasts rather sharply with the Manitoba pattern which reveals that only 1.5% of the charges resulted in the juvenile being cleared of the charge, while 36.3% fell into the category of "No Definite Finding". British Columbia's distribution is somewhat similar to that of Manitoba in this regard, with 4.8% "Not Found Delinquent" and 26.4% resulting in "No Definite Finding".

TABLE 6: NUMBER OF FEDERAL STATUTE CHARGES BY NATURE OF ADJUDICATION BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY ¹, 1981

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	DELINQUENT ⁵	NOT FOUND DELINQUENT ²	NO DEFINITE FINDING ³	TRANSFER TO ADULT COURT	OTHER ⁴	TOTAL ⁶
NEWFOUNDLAND	2,784 (91.5)	84 (2.8)	15 (0.5)	132 (4.3)	28 (0.9)	3,043 [3.3]
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	214 (90.7)	13 (5.5)	7 (3.0)	- (0.0)	2 (0.8)	236 [0.3]
NOVA SCOTIA	1,388 (87.9)	167 (10.6)	13 (0.8)	- (0.0)	11 (0.7)	1,579 [1.7]
NEW BRUNSWICK	1,344 (86.6)	124 (8.0)	69 (4.4)	9 (0.6)	6 (0.4)	1,552 [1.6]
QUEBEC	21,327 (87.5)	1,718 (7.0)	525 (2.2)	571 (2.3)	229 (0.9)	24,370 [26.2]
ONTARIO	15,736 (66.5)	4,724 (20.0)	2,877 (12.2)	11 (0.0)	323 (1.4)	23,671 [25.5]
MANITOBA	6,907 (56.1)	181 (1.5)	4,472 (36.3)	608 (4.9)	141 (1.1)	12,309 [13.3]
SASKATCHEWAN	2,328 (83.4)	426 (15.2)	18 (0.6)	13 (0.5)	8 (0.3)	2,793 [3.0]
ALBERTA	7,789 (85.0)	1,194 (13.0)	118 (1.3)	38 (0.4)	23 (0.3)	9,162 [9.9]
BRITISH COLUMBIA	9,143 (68.3)	648 (4.8)	3,541 (26.4)	13 (0.1)	45 (0.3)	13,390 [14.4]
YUKON	228 (90.8)	16 (6.4)	6 (2.4)	- (0.0)	1 (0.4)	251 [0.3]
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	504 (93.0)	17 (3.1)	19 (3.5)	2 (0.4)	- (0.0)	542 [0.6]
CANADA	69,692 (75.0)	9,312 (10.0)	11,680 (12.6)	1,397 (1.5)	817 (0.9)	92,898 ⁷ [100.0]

NOTES:

- (1) The provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia differ from the other provinces by virtue of their having relatively low percentages of charges resulting in guilty findings. (See also Table 5).
- (2) This includes findings of "not delinquent", withdrawals and dismissals of charges, and "no action". Alberta accounts for the majority of "no action" outcomes reported (93.6% of 517). Inquiry led to the discovery that this is almost always associated with dismissals or withdrawals, hence, its inclusion in this category.
- (3) This category includes adjournments sine die, as well as stays of proceedings.
- (4) This includes findings of unfit to stand trial and not guilty by reason of insanity, as well as repatriation of the accused, and other and unknown adjudications.
- (5) Figures in curved brackets represent the percent of row totals. Thus 91.5% of charges adjudicated in Newfoundland resulted in findings of delinquency.
- (6) Figures in square brackets are percentages of the column total. Thus, Newfoundland had 3.3% of all federal statute charges adjudicated in Canada.
- (7) This total charge count excludes charges against adults. It includes charges against persons of unknown age and juveniles less than 14 years old in Quebec.

Manitoba and Quebec show relatively high proportions of transfers of charges to adult courts (4.9% and 2.3% respectively)¹⁶. Together they account for 84.4% of all transfers (of charges) reported in the survey, a finding which is readily accounted for by the fact that almost all of the transfers in these two provinces involved persons 16 or 17 years of age.

¹⁶ The 608 charges transferred in Manitoba involved an estimated 73 juveniles and the 571 charges in Quebec involved an estimated 32 juveniles.

DISPOSITIONS

Juvenile offenders are given dispositions or sentenced for their illegal actions under Section 20 of the Juvenile Delinquents Act¹⁷. Section 20 (1) of the Act provides for the following types of actions to be taken:

- (a) suspension of the final disposition;
- (b) adjournment of the case for a definite or indefinite period of time;
- (c) imposition of a fine not exceeding \$25.00;
- (d) placement of the child on probation;
- (e) arrangement for the child to remain in his/her home, subject to required contact with the probation officer and the court;
- (f) placement of the child in a foster home under supervision of the court;
- (g) imposition of such "further and other conditions" as may be deemed advisable;
- (h) committal to the care of a provincially approved organization, e.g., a children's aid society; and,
- (i) committal to a provincially approved juvenile institution.

In contemplating the survey data pertaining to dispositions, consideration should be given to the fact that provincial policies and legislation governing child welfare, as well as such factors as the availability within

¹⁷ Except in Newfoundland where the provincial Welfare of Children Act (R.S.N. 1970, C.190), administered by the Minister of Social Services, replaces the Juvenile Delinquents Act. Juveniles adjudged delinquent under the Welfare of Children Act are given dispositions similar to those provided for in the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

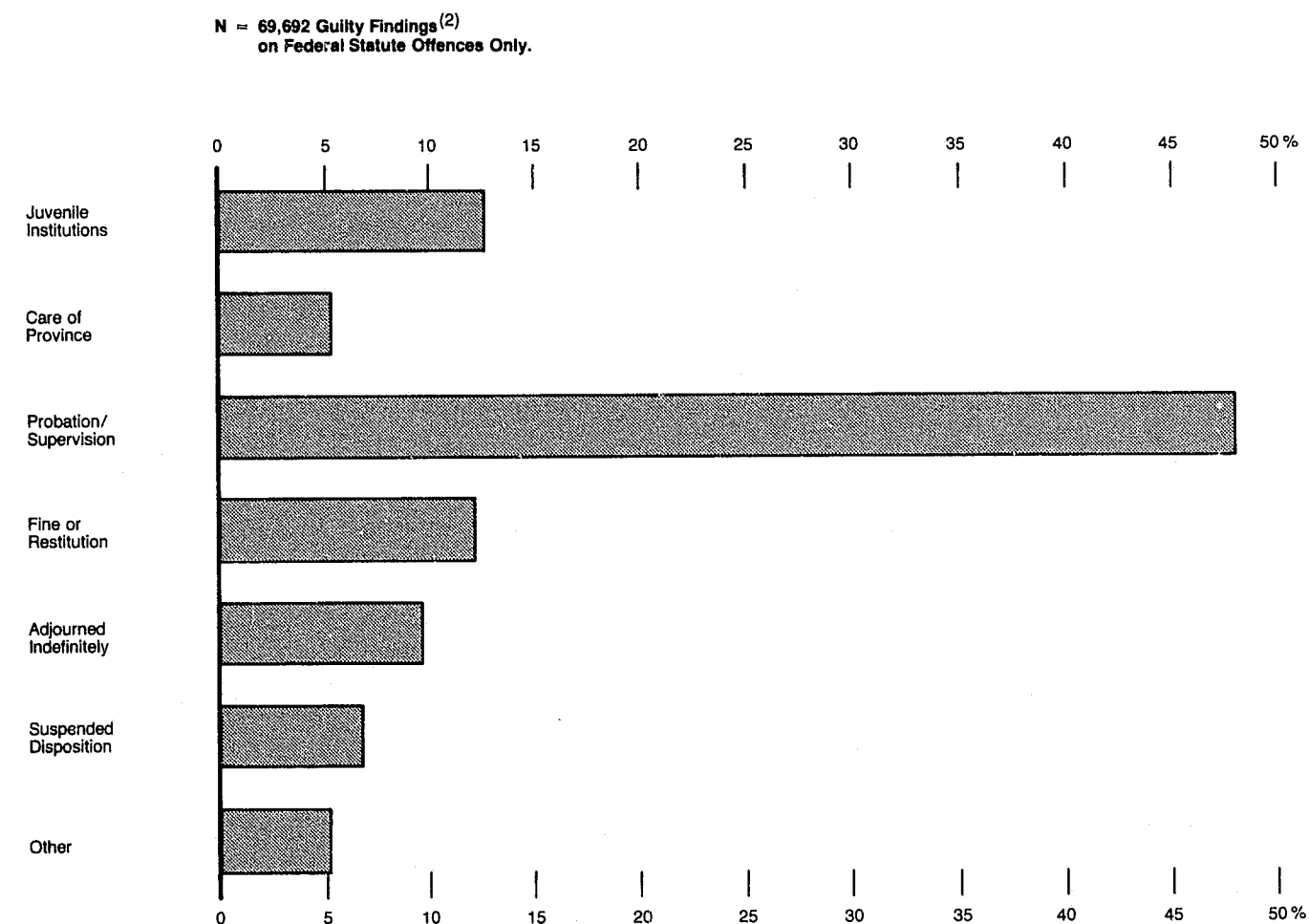
a community of various types of resources or programs for the care and treatment of juvenile offenders, affect the range of dispositions actually available to any given juvenile court. It is not surprising, therefore, that one should observe variations in both type and frequency of dispositions, not only from province to province but from court to court.

It should, perhaps, also be noted that while an analysis of dispositions, taking into account the nature of the offence and its seriousness, the age and sex of the juvenile offender, and various other variables, would prove interesting, such an analysis lies beyond the scope of this report. Attention is focussed here only on the relative frequencies of the dispositions reported in the 1981 survey. A brief explanation of how these frequencies are determined can be found in Appendix C.

On a national basis, the disposition or sentence most frequently given¹⁸ for federal statute offences by juveniles in 1981 was probation/supervision. As Figure 11 illustrates, this accounted for 48.1% of the dispositions for this class of offences, followed by committal to juvenile institutions (12.8%) and fines/restitution orders (12.2%). Table 7 reveals that probation/supervision also accounts for the highest proportion of sentences within every province/territory. However, there is some variation amongst the provinces in the magnitude of this proportion, which ranges from a high of 79.2% in British Columbia to a low of 32.9% in Saskatchewan.

¹⁸ Bear in mind that only the most serious disposition reported for any one charge is used to determine frequency, as described in Appendix C.

FIGURE 11
Percent of Findings of Delinquency
Leading to Each Type of Disposition, ⁽¹⁾ Canada, 1981



(1) If a combination of dispositions was given for a single charge, that which was counted for purposes of this distribution was the most "serious". See Note(2) to Table 7, and Appendix C for explanation.

(2) This is the number of guilty findings resulting from 92,898 charges adjudicated. See Tables 5 and 6.

Certain variations amongst provinces with respect to the relative frequencies of other dispositions are also apparent in Table 7. For example, Quebec shows by far the highest proportion (27.9% of the provincial total) as well as the highest number (5951) of guilty findings resulting in orders for committal of the juvenile concerned to an institution. As noted previously in this report, Quebec differs from most of the other jurisdictions with respect to its having a high proportion of persons appearing in juvenile court on several charges per year. It is not, therefore, surprising that the 5951 charges resulting in orders for committal to institutions involved only approximately 1055 individuals, the majority (79.0%) of whom had 3 or more charges against them in 1981.

Ontario has the second highest number of guilty findings (1280) leading to committals to institutions. However, this represents only 8.1% of the provincial total number of guilty findings. Approximately 550 juveniles, of whom 58.0% had three or more charges adjudicated in 1981 were involved in these committals.

Apart from Quebec, the only other provinces which show comparatively high proportions of guilty findings resulting in committals to institutions are Nova Scotia (18.4%) and New Brunswick (17.7%). In each case, the number of charges involved is small, as is the estimated number of juveniles affected: 256 charges and approximately 120 juveniles in Nova Scotia, and 238 charges and approximately 90 juveniles in New Brunswick.

TABLE 7: NUMBER OF CHARGES RESULTING IN FINDINGS OF DELINQUENCY BY NATURE OF DISPOSITION (FEDERAL STATUTE OFFENCES ONLY)
BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY¹, 1981

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	NATURE OF DISPOSITION ²							TOTAL
	JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS	REFERRED TO CARE OF PROVINCE	PROBATION SUPERVISION	FINE/ RESTITUTION	ADJOURNED INDEFINITELY	DISPOSITION SUSPENDED	OTHER ³	
NEWFOUNDLAND	102 (3.7) ⁴	468 (16.8)	1,201 (43.1)	430 (15.4)	28 (1.0)	477 (17.1)	78 (2.8)	2,784 [4.0] ⁵
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	26 (12.1)	9 (4.2)	127 (59.3)	6 (2.8)	1 (0.5)	7 (3.3)	38 (17.8)	214 [0.3]
NOVA SCOTIA	256 (18.4)	36 (2.6)	652 (47.0)	181 (13.0)	137 (9.9)	10 (0.7)	116 (8.4)	1,388 [2.0]
NEW BRUNSWICK	238 (17.7)	15 (1.1)	455 (33.9)	111 (8.3)	276 (20.5)	230 (17.1)	19 (1.4)	1,344 [1.9]
QUEBEC	5,951 (27.9)	172 (0.8)	7,455 (35.0)	3,186 (14.9)	2,832 (13.3)	1,263 (5.9)	468 (2.2)	21,327 [30.6]
ONTARIO	1,280 (8.1)	614 (3.9)	8,080 (51.3)	1,506 (9.6)	2,417 (15.4)	1,376 (8.7)	463 (2.9)	15,736 [22.6]
MANITOBA	554 (8.0)	110 (1.6)	3,425 (49.6)	1,681 (24.3)	103 (1.5)	110 (1.6)	924 (13.4)	6,907 [9.9]
SASKATCHEWAN	0.0 ⁶ (0.0)	555 (23.8)	765 (32.9)	114 (4.9)	25 (1.1)	650 (27.9)	219 (9.4)	2,328 [3.3]
ALBERTA	50 ⁶ (0.6)	1,525 (19.6)	3,682 (47.3)	750 (9.6)	589 (7.6)	213 (2.7)	980 (12.6)	7,789 [11.2]
BRITISH COLUMBIA	445 (4.9)	94 (1.0)	7,241 (79.2)	486 (5.3)	258 (2.8)	320 (3.5)	299 (3.3)	9,143 [13.1]
YUKON	0.0 ⁶ (0.0)	33 (14.5)	111 (48.7)	8 (3.5)	56 (24.6)	12 (5.3)	8 (3.5)	228 [0.3]
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	0.0 ⁶ (0.0)	64 (12.8)	294 (58.1)	27 (5.4)	53 (10.6)	21 (4.2)	45 (9.0)	504 [0.7]
CANADA	8,902 (12.8)	3,695 (5.3)	33,488 (48.1)	8,486 (12.2)	6,775 (9.7)	4,689 (6.7)	3,657 (5.2)	69,692 [100.0]

NOTES:

- (1) This Table excludes charges against adults. Charges against juveniles for whom age cannot be determined and juveniles less than 14 in Quebec are included.
- (2) The disposition counted for each charge in the Table is that which is considered to be the most "serious". See Appendix C for the classification or grouping of dispositions and their ranking in terms of seriousness.
- (3) The "Other" category includes several dispositions which are very serious, but which occur very rarely, i.e., committed to mental hospital, penitentiary, etc., See Appendix C.
- (4) Figures in curved brackets are percentages of row totals.
- (5) Figures in square brackets are percentages of the column total.
- (6) In these provinces, some referrals to institutions will no doubt have been made through the appropriate provincial authority as a result of referrals to "Care of the Province". Note that the proportions of dispositions indicated in the category of "Referred to Care of Province" are comparatively high in these jurisdictions. In Alberta, the juvenile court can issue a "Compulsory Care Order" indicating that the offender is to be committed to an institution for a specified period not exceeding 90 days. Such orders most probably account for the small number of committals to institutions indicated in column 1.

Several provinces show very few or no guilty findings resulting in juveniles being committed by the courts to institutions. The reason for this is that, in some provinces, the juvenile court itself either cannot or does not commit young offenders directly to institutions, but rather refers them to an appropriate provincial official who is authorized to decide upon the specific form which custody should take. Thus, in cases in which no or very few committals to institutions are indicated in Table 7, one is justified in inferring that some proportion of the committals to the "care of the province" would, in fact, have resulted in placement of the juveniles concerned in some form of secure facility. Note that provinces with few or no referrals to institutions tend to have relatively high proportions of their dispositions in the "referral to care of province" category¹⁹.

The maximum fine which can be levied under the Juvenile Delinquents Act is \$25.00. This may have a bearing on the relatively low frequencies observed for the category of fines and restitution orders. On a national basis, fines and restitution orders together make up 12.2% of all dispositions (Table 7), although in most provinces this type of disposition accounts for less than 10.0% of the provincial total²⁰. One exception is Manitoba, for

¹⁹ See, for example, Saskatchewan and Alberta in Table 7.

²⁰ The reader is reminded of the discussion, in Appendix C, explaining the basis for counting dispositions in Table 7. The frequency of fines/restitution appearing in the Table is less than the actual frequency of fines/restitution associated with the charges to the extent that this type of disposition is given in combination with a more serious sentence such as probation.

which 1681 charges leading to fines/restitution represent 24.3% of the province's dispositions. Quebec shows the largest number of charges resulting in fines/restitution, i.e., 3186 or 14.9% of all dispositions counted for that province.

SUMMARY

The 1981 survey of juvenile courts resulted in a total count of 122,796 charges for which court decisions had been made. In most jurisdictions, approximately 90% of the charges adjudicated pertained to federal statute offences. The two notable exceptions were Manitoba and British Columbia, where federal statute offences accounted for 49.8% and 61.5% of the respective total charge counts. This report has focussed exclusively on federal statute charges, and it is this class of charge alone to which the following summary refers.

The overall rate at which charges were adjudicated for juveniles in Canada in 1981 was 29.2 charges per 1000 juvenile population "at risk"²¹. Amongst the provinces, however, there was considerable variation in overall charge rates, which ranged from a low of 12.0 in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island to a high of 64.8 in Manitoba.

When charge rates based on age were taken into consideration, most provinces showed a steady increase in rate with increasing age of the juveniles charged.

In most provinces, 60% or more of the juveniles having charges adjudicated had only one charge adjudicated in 1981. The notable exceptions were

²¹ This rate is based on a total federal statute charge count of 91,090, which excludes charges against adults and against persons for which age could not be determined, as well as a small number of charges against juveniles in Quebec who were below the minimum age (14 years) in that province.

Quebec, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, where the proportions of juveniles facing one charge only were 33.2%, 41.3% and 45.2% respectively.

At the national level, property-related offences accounted for 81.9% of all federal statute charges adjudicated. There was very little variation in this proportion at the provincial level. Offences involving violence against persons accounted for 4.9% of the federal statute charge count for Canada. Provincially, this proportion ranged from lows of 0.4% in the Yukon and 0.8% in Prince Edward Island to highs of 5.5% in Ontario and 6.2% in Quebec.

At the national level, 75.0% of the charges adjudicated resulted in delinquency findings. This proportion varied considerably at the provincial level, ranging from a low of 56.1% in Manitoba to highs of 91.5% in Newfoundland and 93.0% in the Northwest Territories.

For findings of delinquency, the sanction most frequently applied was probation. Nationally, out of 69,692 guilty findings, 48.1% or 33,488 charges resulted in probation orders. Provincially, British Columbia showed the most frequent use of probation (79.2%) in disposing of delinquency findings, and Saskatchewan the least frequent use (32.9%).

The more serious dispositions, involving committal to juvenile institutions and "referral to care of the province", accounted for 12.8% and 5.3% respectively, of all dispositions. There is considerable variation amongst the provinces in the relative frequency of application of each of the various dispositions available under the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

APPENDIX A

TABLE A: POPULATION (000) ¹ OF JUVENILES AT RISK OF APPEARING IN JUVENILE COURTS IN CANADA, BY PROVINCE/TERRITORY AND BY AGE GROUP, 1981 (BOTH SEXES INCLUDED)

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	7-11	12	13	14	15	16	17	TOTAL POPULATION IN AGE JURISDICTION
NEWFOUNDLAND	59.1	12.1	12.4	12.6	13.4	13.5	13.0 ²	123.2
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	10.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.8	19.4
NOVA SCOTIA	69.2	13.9	14.3	14.9	16.0	17.4	17.6	128.3
NEW BRUNSWICK	60.3	12.0	12.4	12.9	13.9	14.8	15.0	111.4
QUEBEC	445.4	93.8	97.1 ³	103.2	112.5	124.5	126.9	467.1
ONTARIO	646.2	132.2	133.2	137.9	150.0	162.0	166.9	1,199.6
MANITOBA	80.9	16.2	16.2	16.5	17.9	19.2	19.8	186.8
SASKATCHEWAN	77.8	16.0	15.9	16.2	17.7	19.3	19.9	143.5
ALBERTA	176.6	35.2	35.3	35.8	37.4	40.1	43.1	320.3
BRITISH COLUMBIA	198.3	41.8	40.6	41.1	43.3	47.2	49.6	412.3
YUKON	2.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	3.7
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	5.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	9.4
TOTAL (EXCLUDING SHADED CELLS)	1,386.2	283.0	284.1	394.7	425.9	204.4	146.7	3,124.9

NOTES:

- (1) The population figures were supplied courtesy of the Demography Division, Statistics Canada. They are based on the June 3, 1981 population enumeration. They are presented in thousands and are independently rounded to the nearest hundred.
- (2) A shaded cell indicates that the age group is not included in the jurisdiction of the juvenile courts in the province.
- (3) Since the Youth Protection Act (provincial legislation) was implemented in 1979 in Quebec, the effective age jurisdiction of the juvenile courts has been 14 to 17 years of age inclusive.

APPENDIX B

Estimated Percent Error in the 1981 Derivation of Person Counts for the Provinces and Territories

To estimate the number of juveniles who appeared in court during a year from the number of charges on which they appeared, it is necessary to be able to link all the charges reported against any one individual.

If a case against a juvenile consists of several offences, respondents are requested to submit one form for each offence. These forms are kept together and clerically given the same identification number at the Centre.

When forms for a juvenile's case are not submitted together, or when a juvenile appears in several cases over the course of the year, linkage is completed by computer. When the juvenile's last name, first character of first name, date of birth, sex, and province all match perfectly on the forms for two or more charges, a "link" is established and a "person" is counted. Recently a check was made of the efficiency of the linking process using all the charge data, i.e., all charges involving federal statute offences, provincial statute offences and municipal by-law offences, for 1981. The results are shown in the table below.

TABLE B

PROVINCE	TOTAL # OF PERSONS ON FILE ¹	# PERSONS LESS AFTER VISUAL EXAMINATION ²	TOTAL # PERSONS CORRECTED	% ERROR
NEWFOUNDLAND	1,986	89	1,897	+4.7%
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	124	2	122	+1.6%
NOVA SCOTIA	1,005 ³	26	979	+2.7%
NEW BRUNSWICK	859 ³	31	828	+3.7%
QUEBEC	7,250	244	7,006	+3.5%
ONTARIO	13,704	481	13,223	+3.6%
MANITOBA	12,344	803	11,541	+7.0%
SASKATCHEWAN	939	46	893	+5.2%
ALBERTA	4,819	205	4,614	+4.4%
BRITISH COLUMBIA	N/A	-	-	-
YUKON	93	8	85	+9.4%
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES	306	48	258	+18.6%
TOTAL	43,429	1,983	41,446	+4.8%
<p>NOTES:</p> <p>(1) That is, the number of persons estimated from the regular linking process.</p> <p>(2) The reduction in the number of persons after a visual check of the "prelinked" files.</p> <p>(3) The number of persons on file was reduced by 159 in Nova Scotia and 46 in New Brunswick to eliminate those records for which a name was not recorded.</p>				

A "failure" to link two or more charges was determined by examining the linked file for every jurisdiction in alphabetical order (i.e., on the basis of the juveniles' last names). In this way, it was possible to consider whether charges against what appeared to be the same person remained unlinked because of, e.g., a slight misspelling of the last name on one form, a missing date of birth, etc.

The particularly high error rates for the Yukon and Northwest Territories are largely attributable to failures to report date of birth. In Manitoba, the relatively high error of +7.0% is due largely to inconsistencies in the personal identifiers on forms submitted on charges against 16 and 17 year olds. However, for these two age groups, 61.8% of the charges laid in that province involve provincial statute offences. Therefore, the error would likely be considerably less if the class of federal statute offences alone were examined.

APPENDIX C

I METHOD USED TO "COUNT" DISPOSITIONS

Both Table 7 and Figure 11 are based on numbers of charges of delinquency, one disposition being "counted" for each federal statute charge resulting in a finding of guilty. The disposition which is selected to "count" for each charge is that which is considered to be the most "serious"¹. The relative seriousness of a disposition is determined for this purpose on the basis of its effect on the living situation of the juvenile concerned. Thus, a committal to an institution is ranked as more serious than probation which, in turn, is considered more serious than a fine. For instance, if a juvenile was put on probation and fined for an offence, only probation would be counted in Table 7. Strictly speaking, therefore, the frequency of any type of disposition shown in Table 7 or Figure 11 is the "frequency with which that type of disposition occurred as the most serious disposition associated with a charge". The classification or grouping of dispositions and the ordering of dispositions in terms of seriousness are given in parts II and III respectively of this Appendix.

In addition to the possibility of several dispositions being given for a single charge, one also has to consider the possibility of one disposition being linked to several charges. This is one disadvantage associated with

¹ Any combination of dispositions may be given for any particular charge.

charge as opposed to case-based data on dispositions². If a case comprises several charges, it is likely that the disposition is given with respect to the case as a whole. For example, consider a case, i.e., a single referral to court, in which a juvenile is found guilty of breaking and entering, theft, and possession of stolen goods and is committed to a juvenile institution. Three charges, each linked to a referral to an institution, result in a count of three "referrals to institutions" in a charge-based table. One can readily appreciate that if one is concerned with analyzing the relationship between type of offence and type of disposition this presentation of the data can create serious problems.

² The decision to use charge counts in discussing dispositions here was based primarily on the desire to include data from British Columbia, for which no person count is available. However, "persons" are not equivalent to "cases" and the use of the person counts in analyzing dispositions presents its own peculiar problems.

II

GROUPING OF DISPOSITIONS FOR TABLE 7

<u>Description of group</u>	<u>Dispositions Included</u>
Juvenile Institution	Reformatory Training School Industrial School Indefinite Detention Other Juvenile Institution
Charge of Province or Referral to Province	Referred to Director of Child Welfare. Charge of Administrator Commit to Minister Commit to CAS Foster Home
Probation/Supervision	Probation - Court Probation - Parent Supervision Rehabilitation Program Community Work Order
Fine/Restitution	Fine and/or Restitution Fine Restitution Fine and/or Costs
Adjourned Indefinitely	Adjourned Sine Die Adjourned: Follow-up possible
Final Disposition Suspended	Final Disposition Suspended
Other	Reprimanded Mental Hospital Penitentiary Imprisonment Gaol Conditional Discharge Absolute Discharge Forbidden to Drive Other Not Known Assessment of Points for Licence Probation Terminated

III DISPOSITIONS: ORDERED FROM MOST TO LEAST SERIOUS

Mental Hospital
Penitentiary
Imprisonment
Gaol
Reformatory
Training School
Industrial School
Indefinite Detention
Other Juvenile Institution
Commit to Minister
Commit to CAS
Referred to Director of Child Welfare
Charge of Administrator
Foster Home
Probation-Court
Rehabilitation Program
Community Work Order
Probation-Parents
Supervision
Restitution
Fine and/or Restitution
Fine and/or Costs
Fine
Conditional Discharge
Forbidden to Drive
Assessment of Points for Licence
Adjourned: Follow-up possible
Final Disposition Suspended
Adjourned Sine Die
Reprimanded
Absolute Discharge
Probation Terminated
Other
Not Known

END