

## **Fact Sheet**

### **Crime in Nova Scotia, 2005**

The Department of Justice has prepared this fact sheet on crime in Nova Scotia to help inform the work of the Minister's Task Force on Safer Streets and Communities. The Minister's Task Force was developed, in part, as a response to recent statistics which indicated violent victimization and youth violent crime were increasing in Nova Scotia. This fact sheet includes 2005 statistics on overall crime and specific categories of crime by both adults and youth. In order to put the crime data into context, this fact sheet also includes information on Nova Scotia's changing population.

#### ***Population:***

- As of 2005, there were approximately 940,000 people living in Nova Scotia. Statistics Canada projects 0.2% population growth until 2017, which will slow to 0% by 2023 (16 years from now). If this trend continues many predict our province will experience lost economic opportunities, competitive disadvantages, declining communities and ever increasing fiscal pressures including labour market shortages. It is estimated that one in eight Atlantic Canadians are now over the age of 65, and in 20 years that number will be one in four.
- Rural areas are facing the challenges of a shrinking population, while Halifax is growing more rapidly. Research indicates that 20 years from now, an additional 100,000 new residents will live and work in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), at which point, Halifax will be home to almost half a million people.
- As of 2001, 5% of Nova Scotia's population was born outside of Canada. With regard to ethnicity, 2% of Nova Scotia's population identified themselves as Aboriginal and 2% identified themselves as African Nova Scotian. Four percent (4%) of Nova Scotians identified French as the language they first learned and still understood.
- Approximately 4% of Nova Scotia's population identified themselves as a visible minority. The three most prominent visibility minority groups in Nova Scotia are African Nova Scotian (2%), followed by Arabs (0.5%) and Chinese (0.5%). The vast majority of visible minorities (73%) live in the Metro area. To put these numbers into context, consider a city like Toronto. In Toronto, 43% of the population identifies themselves as a visible minority while the comparable figure for Halifax is 7%.
- The immigration rate in Nova Scotia has been dropping. Nova Scotia had the second lowest record in the country for retaining immigrants. With declining birth rates and increasing out-migration, attracting and retaining immigrants has become vital to the ongoing economic health of the province. The province recently created a new immigration strategy and has a Minister Responsible for Immigration.

- As of 2001, the African Nova Scotian and Aboriginal population were considerably younger than the rest of Nova Scotia. For example, in 2001, 45% of African Nova Scotians and 50% of Aboriginals were under 25 years of age. Overall, 31% of Nova Scotia's population is under 25 years of age.
- Furthermore, African Nova Scotians and Aboriginals are less likely to have graduated from high school, are less likely to participate in the labour market and are more than twice as likely as other Nova Scotians to live below the poverty line. Aboriginals and African Nova Scotians are also over-represented in our correctional system.
- Nova Scotia's unemployment rate in October 2006 was 8.2%. This is higher than the national unemployment rate of 6.2%.
- In 2004, 18% of Nova Scotia's children were living in poverty.
- Prior to recent hiring, in Nova Scotia, there were 173 police officers for every 100,000 Nova Scotians. This is slightly lower than the national average of 185 per 100,000 population.
- In summary, the demographics of Nova Scotia have been changing and will continue to change in the future. Engaging diverse groups (e.g. African Nova Scotians, Aboriginals, Acadians) in a crime prevention strategy and ensuring the strategy accurately addresses diverse views will be a factor for sustainable change.

*A note about the crime data:*

Each year, police-reported crime statistics are collected by Statistics Canada to measure the magnitude and the nature of criminal activity brought to the attention of the police. Every five years, these crime statistics are complemented by victimization data from the General Social Survey (GSS), also conducted by Statistics Canada. While the police survey measures crimes known to the police, victimization surveys provide estimates of criminal victimization, including those not reported to police. Taken together, these two surveys (police reported and GSS) provide the most accurate picture of crime in Nova Scotia.

Many factors can influence police-reported crime statistics including reporting by the public to the police. The failure to report crimes to the police can lead to an under-counting of crime in official police statistics. According to the GSS, only 33% of criminal incidents in Canada came to the attention of the police in 2004. Other factors include reporting to Statistics Canada by police organizations as well as police practices, such as failure to officially record the use of informal warnings and cautions when dealing with young offenders.

The data in these fact sheets are subject to the above-noted limitations of police-recorded data.

Furthermore, the data presented here deal only with the most serious offence recorded during an incident. That is to say, if an offender assaults a person and is then found to have drugs on their person for the purposes of trafficking, only the most serious offence, the assault, is recorded in these fact sheets. As a result, the police reported information presented here, while it is the best we have, likely underestimates the amount of criminal activity taking place in Nova Scotia.

*Victimization in Nova Scotia (refers to crime reported and not reported to the police)*

- According to the 2004 General Social Survey (GSS) rates of violent victimization (physical assault, sexual assault and robbery) in Nova Scotia increased 65% between 1999 and 2004. In 2004, Nova Scotia had the second highest violent victimization rate in the country (Alberta had the highest) at 157 incidents per 1,000 population.
- There are a number of “risk” factors associated with violent victimization. These include being young (age 15 to 24 years of age), being single, a student, living in an urban area, being Aboriginal and having low household income (under \$15,000). While these risk factors are based on national data, at this time there is no reason to believe that risk factors in Nova Scotia would differ from risk factors at the national level (Gannon et al, 2005).
- Rates of household victimization (e.g. break and enter, motor vehicle theft or parts of a motor vehicle, theft of household property and vandalism) increased 16% between 1999 and 2004 (from 200 per 1,000 households to 232 per 1,000 households). Household victimization rates in Nova Scotia were lower than the national average ( 248 per 1,000 households) and among the lowest in the country. Risk factors associated with household victimization include: renting, living in a semi-detached, row or duplex home, and being an urban dweller (Gannon et al, 2005).

*Fear of crime in Nova Scotia*

- Despite higher rates of violent victimization in Nova Scotia, Nova Scotians in general, had a favourable perception of crime in their neighborhood. For example, according to the 2004 GSS, fully 72% of Nova Scotians indicated that crime in their neighbourhood was lower compared to other areas. Furthermore, when compared to 5 years ago, 62% of Nova Scotians indicated that crime in their neighbourhood was about the same, while 6% indicated that it was lower when compared to 5 years ago. Only 28% of Nova Scotians indicated that crime had increased in their neighbourhood in the 5 years preceding the survey.
- With regard to personal safety, 95% of Nova Scotians indicated they are satisfied with their level of personal safety, 92% felt safe when walking along after dark and 83% indicated they were not at all worried when home alone in the evening or after dark. For

those using public transportation, however, there was a higher degree of worry. Forty-two percent (42%) of Nova Scotians indicated they were worried when using public transportation after dark .

### *Violence by someone known to the victim*

- While random crime on the streets is a real concern for Nova Scotians, it is important to note that people are also at significant risk from someone they know. Take, for example, homicides. At the national level, there were 478 solved homicides in 2005. Thirty-three percent (33%) were committed by a family member, while an additional 49% were committed by an acquaintance (e.g. boyfriend, girlfriend, close friend, neighbour). Only 18% were committed by a stranger (Dauvergne et al, 2006).
- In 2004, there were 11 solved homicides in Nova Scotia. Of these, 82% were committed by someone known to the victim (e.g. spouse, acquaintance), while 18% were committed by a stranger.
- While specific data are not available for Nova Scotia, research has shown (Aucoin, 2005) that the majority of physical assaults against children under 6 years of age were perpetrated by someone the victim knew. In six out of ten police-reported physical assaults of children under 6, the perpetrator was a family member (64% female victims, 62% male victims) and in 18% of cases the perpetrator was a close friend or acquaintance - persons who may have come into contact with the child through an older family member.
- Overall, when a family member was accused of physically assaulting a child or youth, more than six in ten of these accused (65%) was a parent (biological, step, foster or adoptive). According to police data, 44% of those accused in family-related physical assaults against children and youth were fathers, followed by mothers (21%) and brothers (15%) (Aucoin, 2005)
- Older youth, on the other hand, are at highest risk of being assaulted by their peers. For example, youth aged 11-to-17 were more likely to be physically assaulted by a close friend, acquaintance or business relationship (Aucoin, 2005).

### *Spousal/Intimate partner violence*

- According to the 2004 GSS, rates of spousal violence in Nova Scotia have remained relatively stable over the past 5 years. In 2004, 7% of women reported experiencing spousal violence in the previous 5 years compared to 8% in 1999. This is the equivalent of 21,000 women who reported being the victim of spousal violence in the five years preceding the 2004 survey.
- The type of violence women experienced in spousal relationships in Nova Scotia ranged in seriousness from being threatened to being beat, choked or sexually assaulted. The vast majority of women reported being pushed, grabbed or shoved (90% or 19,000 women), while 24% ( the equivalent of 5,000 women) reported the most serious forms of violence - that is being beat, choked, having a gun or knife used against them or being sexually assaulted.
- While numbers are not available for Nova Scotia, at the national level, research has found that spousal violence crosses all socio-demographic boundaries. Income level and education level has little impact on the risk of violence. Similarly, living in a rural or urban area has little impact on risk of victimization (Pottie Bunge, 2000; Mihorean, 2005).
- There are, however, some groups who are at greater risk of spousal violence. These include those who are young (15-25 years of age); living in a common law relationship; recently separated; Aboriginal; and living with a partner who is a heavy drinker (defined as someone who consumes 5 or more drinks on 5 or more occasions in a month). Rates of spousal violence are also higher for those who are in an emotionally abusive relationship. Emotional abuse is a strong predictor of escalating violence in a relationship (Pottie Bunge, 2000; Mihorean, 2005).
- A relationship between stalking and spousal violence has been found to exist. Sixty-one percent (61%) of women who were stalked by a current or previous partner in the past 5 years also reported being the victim of spousal violence during the same time period (Aucoin, 2005).
- Spousal violence is not likely to be an isolated event. Overall, half of those who reported spousal violence stated that the violence occurred on more than one occasion (Pottie Bunge, 2000; Mihorean, 2005).

- Forty-four percent (44%) of females reported an injury as a result of the violence (e.g. fractures, broken bones, miscarriages) compared to 19% of male spousal violence victims. Female victims of spousal violence were three times more likely than male victims of spousal violence to fear for their life (34% versus 10%) and three times more likely to take time off from their everyday activities because of the violence (29% versus 10%) (Mihorean, 2005). This speaks to the severity of the violence suffered by female spouses.
- Between 2000 and 2003 there were an estimated 12,475 spousal/intimate partner violence incidents reported to police in Nova Scotia. This amounts to approximately 8 incidents of spousal/intimate partner violence being reported to the police on any given day in Nova Scotia. This data comes from the Nova Scotia Family Violence Tracking Project, a unique project in Canada which tracks cases of spousal/intimate partner violence through the criminal justice system,
- The nature of the relationship between individuals in intimate partner/spousal violence situations is changing. In 1998, the majority of relationships were spousal in nature (69%). In the 2005 study, 52% of relationships were spousal in nature, while 48% involved a current or former boyfriend and/or girlfriend (Nova Scotia Family Violence Tracking Project, 2006).
- In 30% of the incidents reported to police in Nova Scotia, children under the age of 16 were in the house. Previous research has found children who witness family violence may also experience long-term consequences and be at risk of behavioural and developmental problems as well as emotional disorders such as depression, fear or anxiety.
- Male children who had witnessed their fathers abusing their spouses were found to be three times more likely to be violent in their own intimate relationships (Johnson, 1996).
- Children who witness violence in the home have more than double the odds of acting out aggressively than do children who never witness violence (Hotton, 2003) and have higher levels of anxiety (Moss, 2003). This research suggests that early intervention is essential to reduce the negative impacts of violence on children and youth.

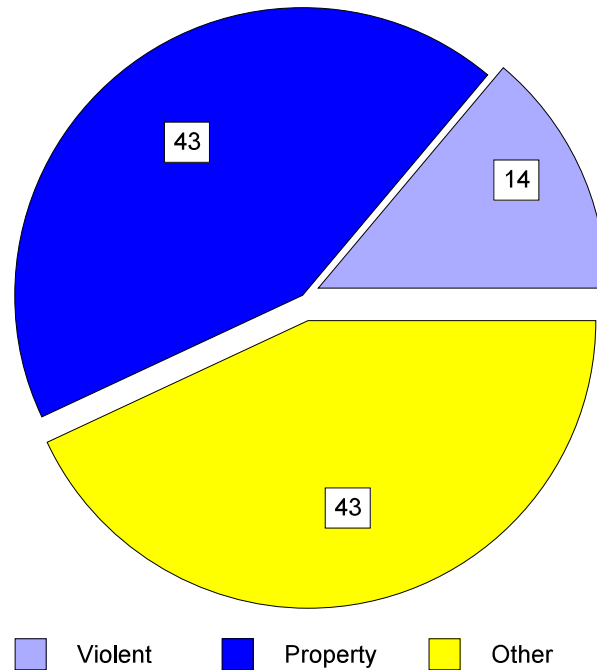
## *Police reported crime statistics*

### *Overall crime (adult and youth)*

- In Nova Scotia, the overall crime rate in 2005 was 8,345 per 100,000 population. This is down 5% from 2004, and is marginally higher than the national average of 7,761 per 100,000. The decrease in the overall crime rate was driven by decreases in adult crime rates, as noted later in the document, youth crime actually increased 3% between 2004 and 2005 (*see Youth crime section*).
- Decreases were noted in most crimes with the exception of the serious crime of homicide. After increasing 62% in 2004, the homicide rate increased 43% in 2005. There were 20 homicides in 2005, 6 more than in 2004 when there were 14 homicides and 12 more than in 2003 when there were 8 homicides. The 2005 homicide rate was the highest since 2000. The homicide rate in Nova Scotia (2.1 per 100,000) is on par with the national average (2.0 per 100,000).
- In Nova Scotia, the decrease in the overall crime rate was driven by declines in property crime (-7%), violent crime (-5%) and other criminal code offences (-3%). In particular, large drops were reported for motor vehicle thefts (-16%), break-ins (-7%), counterfeiting (-25%) and other theft (-6%).
- Similar to the national level, the distribution of offences has steadily changed in Nova Scotia over the last 25 years. In 2005, about 78,000 *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic incidents and other federal statutes such as drug offences) were reported to the police. Of these, 14% were violent crimes, 43% were property crimes and the remaining 43% were other *Criminal Code* offences such as mischief, counterfeiting, disturbing the peace and bail violations. In 1980, about 57,000 *Criminal Code* incidents (excluding traffic incidents and other federal statutes such as drug offences) were reported to the police. Of these, violent crimes represented a smaller percentage of all crimes (8%), property crimes had a higher representation (56%) and other *Criminal Code* offences had a lower representation (36%).

## Distribution of crime in Nova Scotia, 2005

Data source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Statistics Canada



### *Violent crime (adult and youth)*

- With regard to the decrease in violent crime (-5%), drops were reported for assault (-5%), sexual assault (-6%) and robbery (-5%). Nova Scotia was one of two provinces, the other being PEI, to note declines in robbery rates. The decrease in violent crime was driven by decreases in adult crime rates, as noted later in the document, the rate of youth violent crime actually increased 7% between 2004 and 2005 (*see Youth crime section*).

### *Property crime*

- With regard to the decrease in property crime (-7%), drops were reported for motor vehicle thefts (-16%), break-ins (-7%) and other theft (-6%).
- Rates of motor vehicle theft in Nova Scotia (281 per 100,000) were significantly lower than the national average (496 per 100,000) while rates of break-ins (778 per 100,000) were slightly lower than the national average (804 per 100,000).



### *Drugs and other Criminal Code offences*

- In Nova Scotia, charges laid for drug offences also decreased for the second time in three years, dropping 21% in 2005. Cannabis offences accounted for the majority of drug offences (77%), and fell 25% between 2004 and 2005. Reductions were also noted in the number of charges laid for cocaine offences (-8%) and other drugs (-1%).
- Similar to the national level, in Nova Scotia, cannabis offences continue to account for the majority of drug offences, however they represent a smaller proportion of drug offences compared to five years ago. In 2005, cannabis offences represented 77% of all drug-related incidents, down from 88% of the total in 2000. While the representation of heroin has remained unchanged at 0%, cocaine offences have grown from 7% to 10% of the total, while other drugs have increased from 5% to 13% of the total.
- Recent research indicates that Nova Scotia has the largest rating of cannabis use in the country at 44% of the population (RCMP environmental scan, 2005).
- With regard to other criminal code offences, a significant reduction was noted in counterfeiting (-25%) while mischief offences were up 6%.

*Regional variations<sup>1</sup> (adult and youth):*

Breaking down the crime rate by regions is useful as it demonstrates that crime is not evenly distributed across the province and it also demonstrates that different regions may be experiencing different crime problems.

**Table 1: Number of crimes (adult and youth) by region, 2005**

	<b>Violent</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Other Criminal Code*</b>	<b>Total</b>
Halifax Regional	4,972	18,610	1,2177	35,759
Cape Breton	1,967	4,319	6,161	12,447
North Central	1,702	5,388	7,078	14,168
South West	9,86	2,592	4,122	7,700
Valley	1,048	3,096	4,051	8,195

\*Excludes drug offences

**Source:** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada

**Table 2: Rate of crime (adult and youth) per 100,000 population by region, 2005**

	<b>Violent crime rate</b>	<b>Property crime rate</b>	<b>Other Criminal Code rate**</b>	<b>Overall crime rate</b>
Halifax Regional	1306*	4887*	3197	9389*
Cape Breton	1315*	2887	4119*	8322
North Central	997	3155	4145*	8297
South West	919	2417	3843*	7179
Valley	810	2392	3130	6331
<b>Provincial average</b>	<b>1138</b>	<b>3626</b>	<b>3581</b>	<b>8345</b>

\* Rates with an asterisk are higher than the provincial average

\*\* Excludes drug offences

**Source:** Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada

---

<sup>1</sup> The Cape Breton region includes the whole Island of Cape Breton. The North Central region includes Antigonish, Colchester, Cumberland, Guysborough and Pictou counties. The South West region includes Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties. The Valley region includes Annapolis, Digby, Hants and Kings counties

- In 2005, rates of violent crime were higher than the provincial average in Cape Breton (1,315 per 100,000 population) and HRM (1,306 per 100,000 population). The lowest rate of violent crime in 2005 was recorded in the Valley region (810 per 100,000 population), followed by the South West region (919 per 100,000 population).
- Rates of property crime, on the other hand, were higher than the provincial average in HRM (4,887 per 100,000 population). The lowest rate of property crime in 2005 was recorded in the Valley region (2,417 per 100,000 population), followed again by the South West region (2,417 per 100,000 population).
- With regard to other *Criminal Code* offences, rates were higher than the provincial average in three regions of the province: North Central (4,145 per 100,000 population), Cape Breton (4,119 per 100,000 population) and South West (3,843 per 100,000 population).
- Overall crime, however, was higher than the provincial average in only one region of the province, which was HRM. The rate of overall crime in HRM was 9,389 per 100,000 population, which was 13% higher than the provincial rate of 8,345 per 100,000 population.

**Table 3: Number and rate of drug crime (adult and youth) per 100,000 population by region, 2005**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Halifax Regional (HRM)	891	234*
Cape Breton	194	130
North Central	367	215
South West	280	261*
Valley	282	218*
<b>Provincial average</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>215</b>

\* Rates with an asterisk are higher than the provincial average

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada

- Rates of drug crime were higher than the provincial average (215 incidents per 100,000) in the South West region (261 incidents per 100,000), followed by HRM (234 incidents per 100,000 population) and the Valley (218 incidents per 100,000). Rates of drug crime were lowest in the Cape Breton region. Caution should be exercised when examining drug statistics as they are particularly sensitive to police enforcement (for example a crack down on grow-ops) and recording practices.

### *Measuring youth crime*

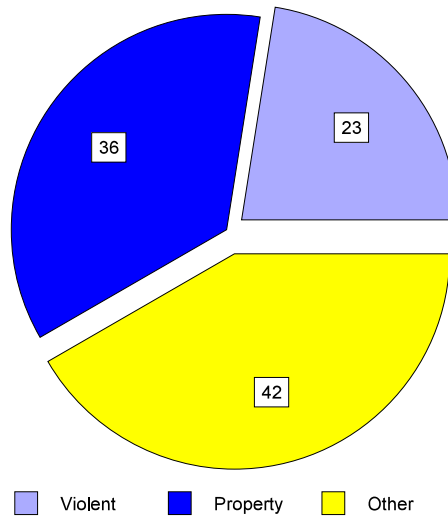
Youths aged 12 to 17 who come into contact with the law can be formally charged or dealt with by other means. While this has always been true, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)*, which came into force on April 1, 2003 replacing the *Young Offenders Act*, recognizes that appropriate and effective responses to youth crime need not always involve the courts. The Act provides police services with a number of alternatives to charging a youth, including informal police warnings, formal police cautions, referrals to community programs, and referrals to extrajudicial sanctions (EJS) programs (formerly known as alternative measures programs). The Act requires that police officers consider extrajudicial measures prior to charging a youth.

Since the implementation of the *YCJA*, police-reported data confirm that the number of youths formally charged have dropped while the number of youths dealt with by means other than a charge has increased. To provide an accurate picture of youth criminal activity in Nova Scotia, the following data includes incidents where formal charges were laid as well as incidents which were diverted from the formal criminal justice system.

### *Youth crime*

- Unlike the national trend (-6%), the youth crime rate in Nova Scotia increased 3% between 2004 and 2005. This increase was fuelled by a 7% increase in youth violent crime and a 7% increase in other criminal code offences. Increases were noted in all major violent offence categories including assault (4%), sexual assault (18%) and robbery (41%). Increases were also noted in bail violations (20%) and mischief (8%).
- Similar to the national trend, reductions were noted in youth property crime for the third time in four years. The 4% drop reported in 2005 follows the 10% drop reported in 2004. In 2005, significant decreases were noted in break-ins (-27%) and motor vehicle theft (-26%).
- While increases in youth crime were reported in New Brunswick (5%) and Nova Scotia (3%), the remaining seven provinces recorded decreases, ranging from a decline of 2% in Saskatchewan to a drop of 14% in Manitoba.
- Overall, in 2005, 23% of crime committed by youth in Nova Scotia was violent, 36% was property related and 43% was for other criminal code offences such as mischief, bail violations, etc.

**Distribution of youth crime in Nova Scotia, 2005**  
 Data source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Statistics Canada



*Regional variations<sup>2</sup> in youth crime*

**Table 4: Number of youth crimes (charged and diverted) by region, 2005**

	Violent	Property	Other Criminal Code*	Total
Halifax Regional	668	1042	632	2342
Cape Breton	203	243	505	951
North Central	286	534	699	1519
South West	197	246	485	928
Valley	177	346	518	1041
Total	1531	2411	2839	6781

\* Excludes drug offences

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada

---

<sup>2</sup> The Cape Breton region includes the whole Island of Cape Breton. The North Central region includes Antigonish, Colchester, Cumberland, Guysborough and Pictou counties. The South West region includes Lunenburg, Queens, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties. The Valley region includes Annapolis, Digby, Hants and Kings counties

**Table 5: Rate of accused youth crime per 1,000 population by region, 2005**

	Violent crime rate	Property crime rate	Other <i>Criminal Code</i> rate**	Overall crime rate
Halifax Regional	23*	36*	22	81
Cape Breton	16	19	40*	76
North Central	20	38*	50*	108*
South West	24*	29	58*	111*
Valley	17	33*	50*	100*
<b>Provincial average</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>91</b>

\* Rates with an asterisk are higher than the provincial average

\*\* Excludes drug offences

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS, Statistics Canada

- In 2005, there were a total of 6,781 incidents of youth crime reported to the police: 1,531 (23%) were for violent crime, 2,411 (36%) were for property crime and 2,839 (42%) were for other *Criminal Code* offences such as bail violations and mischief.
- Overall rates of youth crime were highest in the South West (111 per 1,000 youth) followed by North Central (108 per 1,000 youth) and the Valley (100 per 1,000 youth). These rates were largely driven by higher rates of other *Criminal Code* offences in these regions.
- Rates of youth violent crime were higher than the provincial average (21 per 1,000 youth) in the South West (24 per 1,000 youth) and HRM (23 per 1,000 youth) regions.
- Rates of youth property crime were higher than the provincial average (32 per 1,000 youth) in North Central (38 per 1,000 youth), HRM (36 per 1,000 youth) and the Valley (33 per 1,000 youth).
- Rates of other *Criminal Code* offences were higher than the provincial average in all regions with the exception of HRM which recorded the lowest rates (22 per 1,000 youth population).

*A note on Aboriginals and African Nova Scotians in the justice system*

- Aboriginals represent 2% of Nova Scotia's population. In 2005-06, Aboriginal adults represented 7% of admissions to sentenced custody and 8% of admissions to remand. Aboriginals are over-represented in our correctional population.
- African Nova Scotians represent 2% of Nova Scotia's population. In 2005-06, African Nova Scotian adults represented 13% of admissions to sentenced custody and 13% of admissions to remand. African Nova Scotians are over-represented in our correctional population.

*The cost of crime:*

- The federal Department of Justice estimates that, in 2003, crime in Canada cost an estimated \$70 billion, of which \$47 billion was incurred by victims. Costs to victims include the value of their damaged or stolen property, pain and suffering, loss of income and productivity, and health services. Criminal justice system expenditures such as police, courts, and correctional services comprised \$13 billion of the estimated total cost of crime. The remaining \$10 billion was spent on defensive measures such as security devices and protective services. Property crimes cost Canadians \$40 billion, violent crimes cost \$18 billion and other crimes cost \$12 billion.
- Here in Nova Scotia, the provincial Department of Justice estimates that about \$235 million is spent on the administration of justice (including policing, courts, legal aid, corrections and public prosecution) each year, and the cost is climbing.
- A 2004 study by GPI Atlantic, a non-profit research group, attempted to capture the broader costs associated with crime. It estimated that crime costs Nova Scotians an estimated \$550 million a year (based on late 1990s data) when one includes private spending on security services (alarms, guards, surveillance and insurance) and economic losses to victims in addition to public spending on police, courts and corrections. That translates into \$600 per person. And it climbs to \$1.2 billion a year or \$1,250 per person when losses due to unreported crimes, insurance fraud and shoplifting are added.
- GPI's estimated cost of crime is based on 1990s data, and it is probable that current costs are higher still in light of higher crime rates, which leads to higher taxes for public justice expenditures, higher insurance premiums, higher rates of personal spending on security and more victim losses.

*A note on gangs:*

- In Canada as well as in Nova Scotia, there has been growing concern about crimes committed by gangs. Data on gangs, however, is notoriously difficult to collect. While the General Social Survey (GSS) does not measure gang-related violence per se, it is able to assess the number of accused involved in a violent incident.
- Results from the GSS show that, at the national level, the majority of violent incidents (76%) were committed by one accused and about one in five violent incidents involved more than one accused (22%). Of the three types of violent offences measured in the GSS (assault, sexual assault and robbery), robberies were most likely to involve more than one accused (39%). There has been no significant change in the proportion of violent incidents committed by two or more accused between 1999 and 2004 (73% versus 76%). Data are currently unavailable for Nova Scotia.

**Please direct inquiries to:**  
Nova Scotia Department of Justice  
Policy, Planning and Research  
5151 Terminal Road, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2L6

Phone: (902) 424-5341



*References:*

AuCoin, K. 2005. "Stalking-criminal harassment". *Juristat*. In K. AuCoin (eds.) *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*. Catalogue no. 85-224-XPE. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

AuCoin, K. 2005. "Children and youth as victims of crime". *Juristat*. Catalogue no. 85-002-XPF, Vol 25, no. 1. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Dauvergne, Mia and Geoffrey Li. "Homicide in Canada, 2005". *Juristat*. Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE, Vol 26, no. 6. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Gannon, M. And K. Mihorean, 2005. "Criminal Victimization in Canada, 2004". *Juristat*. Catalogue no. 85-002-XPE. Vol 25, no. 7. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Hotton, T. 2003. "Childhood aggression and exposure to violence in the home". *Crime and Justice Research Paper Series*. Catalogue no. 85-561-MIE2003002. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Johnson, H. 1996. *Dangerous Domains: Violence Against Women in Canada*. Scarborough: Nelson Canada.

Mihorean, K. 2005. "Trends in self-reported spousal violence". In K. AuCoin (eds.) *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005*. Catalogue no. 85-224-XPE. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Moss, Kathleen. 2003. "Witnessing violence – aggression and anxiety in young children". Supplement to *Health Reports*. Catalogue 82-003, Vol. 14. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.

Nova Scotia Family Violence Tracking Project Phase 3: 2000 to 2003 (forthcoming, 2006). Policy, Planning and Research. Nova Scotia: Department of Justice.

Pottie Bunge, V. 2000. "Spousal Violence". In, Pottie Bunge V. And D. Locke (eds) *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2000*. Catalogue no. 85-224-XPE. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.