

Juristat article

Adult criminal court statistics in Canada, 2010/2011



by Mia Dauvergne

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Adult criminal court statistics in Canada, 2010/2011

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Symbols

- . not available for any reference period
- .. not available for a specific reference period
- ... not applicable
- 0 true zero or a value rounded to zero
- 0^s value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
- ^p preliminary
- ^r revised
- x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
- ^E use with caution
- F too unreliable to be published
- * significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

Adult criminal court statistics in Canada, 2010/2011: Highlights

- Following three consecutive annual increases, the total number of cases completed in adult criminal courts remained relatively steady in 2010/2011. There were nearly 403,000 cases, involving about 1.2 million *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences.
- Some provinces, most notably, British Columbia (-7%), Alberta (-6%) and Quebec (-6%) reported drops in the number of completed cases. These declines, however, were offset by increases elsewhere in the country, including Saskatchewan (+5%) and Ontario (+2%).
- The most common types of adult court cases in 2010/2011 involved impaired driving and theft. Among violent crime cases, those involving common assault were most frequent.
- There were about 3,300 fewer violent crime cases including attempted murder, robbery, sexual assault, major assault, common assault and uttering threats. Among property crime cases, those involving theft remained stable while cases involving fraud and break and enter declined.
- Cases involving administration of justice offences, such as failure to comply and breach of probation, accounted for about 1 in 5 adult criminal court cases. Although the number of such cases remained stable in 2010/2011, these types of cases have been gradually rising over the past decade, up 35% since 2000/2001.
- Cases in adult criminal court tend to involve a disproportionate number of young adults. While those aged 18 to 24 years accounted for 30% of accused persons in adult criminal court, this same age group represented 12% of the adult population.
- Consistent with previous years, about two-thirds (64%) of adult criminal court cases in 2010/2011 resulted in a finding of guilt. The proportion of guilty findings was highest in Prince Edward Island (80%) and lowest in Ontario (56%).
- Probation was the most common type of sentence imposed in adult criminal courts, at 45% of all guilty cases. In nearly all provinces and territories, the median length of probation in 2010/2011 was 365 days.
- As has generally been the case for the past decade, one-third (33%) of guilty adult criminal court cases resulted in a sentence to custody in 2010/2011. Sentences to custody were most often imposed by courts in Prince Edward Island (63%) and least often in Nunavut (23%), Nova Scotia (25%) and New Brunswick (26%).
- The use of custodial sentences varied considerably depending on the type of case. For example, in Prince Edward Island, the vast majority (93%) of impaired driving cases resulted in a custodial sentence in 2010/2011, whereas courts in other provinces more typically imposed a fine for this offence.
- The majority (86%) of all custodial sentences were for a term of six months or less. About 4% of guilty cases in 2010/2011 resulted in a sentence to federal custody of 2 years or more.
- The median length of time taken to complete an adult criminal court case fell to 118 days, the second consecutive annual decline. As has been the case for the past decade, case completion time in 2010/2011 was shortest in Prince Edward Island, at 29 days.

Adult criminal court statistics in Canada, 2010/2011

by Mia Dauvergne

One of the key components of Canada’s criminal justice system is the courts. The criminal court system consists of multiple levels of court with responsibility shared between federal, provincial and territorial governments. Each court is responsible for making decisions regarding the culpability of those accused of a criminal offence. In addition, for those found guilty (or who plead guilty), courts are responsible for determining an appropriate sentence to be imposed (Department of Justice Canada 2005b).

Using data from the adult component of the 2010/2011 Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS), this *Juristat* article presents information on the characteristics of criminal court cases involving adults (18 years and older).¹ More specifically, it examines the number and types of cases completed in adult criminal courts, the decisions made in relation to these cases and the sentences imposed upon those found guilty. In addition, this article looks briefly at the length of time taken to complete adult criminal court cases and the factors that influence timeliness.

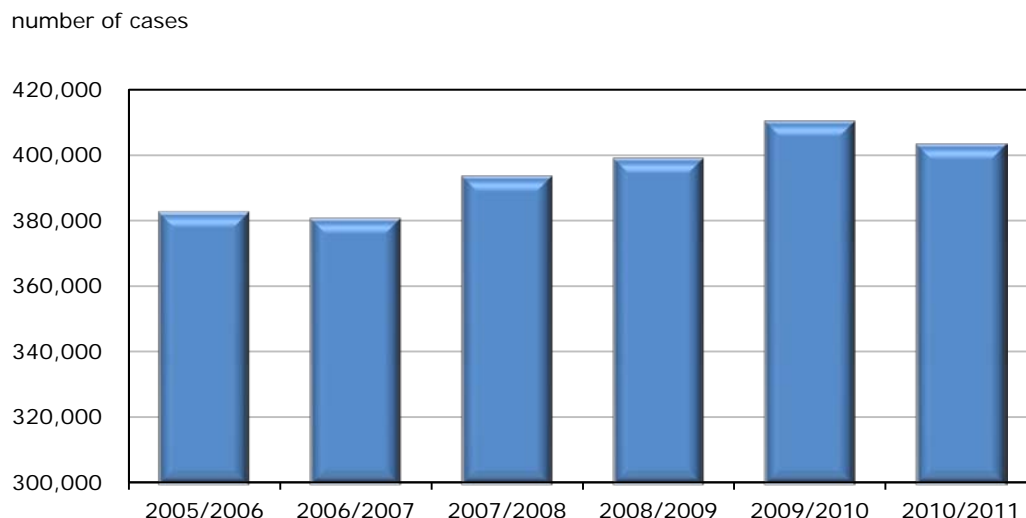
It is important to note that the data presented in this article represent approximately 95% of the caseload completed in Canadian adult criminal courts. In 2010/2011, information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec (which accounted for about one-quarter of all *Criminal Code* charges in that province) was unavailable.

Adult criminal court cases remain stable in 2010/2011

Following three consecutive annual increases, the number of adult criminal court cases remained relatively stable in 2010/2011 (Chart 1).² Canadian adult criminal courts completed almost 403,000 cases in 2010/2011 involving nearly 1.2 million *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences, such as drug-related offences (Table 1).

Chart 1

Cases completed in adult criminal court, Canada, 2005/2006 to 2010/2011



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. Data begin in 2005/2006 when information from all provincial and territorial courts became available. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

1. For information on 2010/2011 youth court statistics in Canada, see Brennan 2012.
 2. At the time of this publication, information reported to Statistics Canada shows a 1.7% decline between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 in the number of completed adult court cases. However, it is expected that updates received at a later date will result in an additional 2% in the number of cases for 2010/2011. For further information, see Data source section.

Although the overall number of adult criminal court cases remained relatively steady, there were fewer cases completed in several provinces, most notably, British Columbia (-7%), Alberta (-6%) and Quebec (-6%) (Table 2). The decline in these provinces, however, was offset by increases in the number of cases completed in other areas of the country, including Saskatchewan (+5%) which also reported the highest provincial rate of adult court cases, and Ontario (+2%).

There are many factors that may influence the number and types of cases completed in a particular jurisdiction.³ These may include Crown and police charging practices, the use of stays, withdrawals and dismissals, the distribution of offences, and various forms of alternative measures programs. These types of programs divert people accused of less serious crimes out of the formal justice system by dealing with them through non-judicial, community-based alternatives (such as personal service or financial compensation to the victim, community service or educational sessions).

Most adult criminal court cases involve non-violent offences

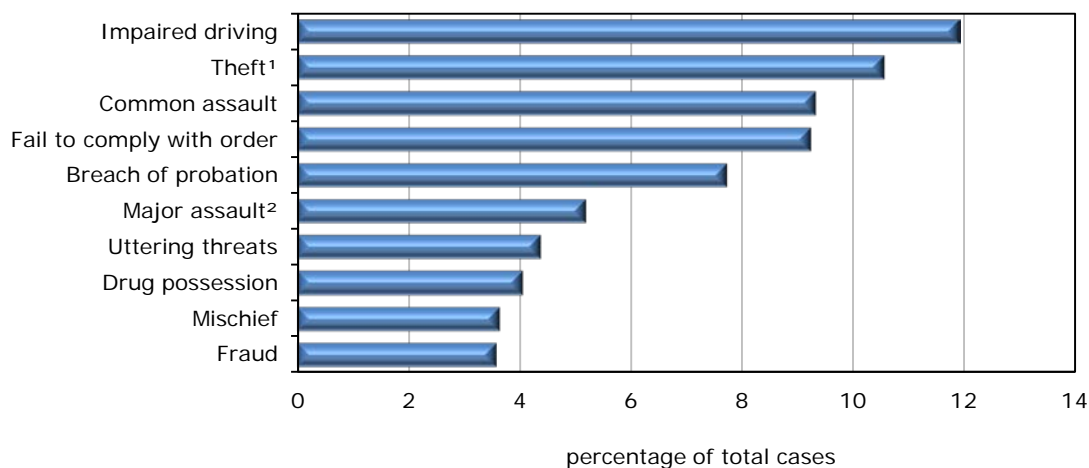
Similar to crime trends in general, most cases completed in adult criminal courts involve non-violent offences.⁴ In 2010/2011, about three-quarters (77%) of all cases involved property offences, administration of justice offences, traffic offences or other non-violent *Criminal Code* or federal statute offences. Violent offences accounted for the remaining 23% of adult court cases.

More specifically, ten offences accounted for about 7 in 10 cases completed in adult criminal courts in 2010/2011. Among the most common were impaired driving (12%), theft (11%), common assault (9%), failure to comply with a court order (9%), and breach of probation (8%) (Chart 2).

Chart 2

Ten most common offences for cases completed in adult criminal court, Canada, 2010/2011

Ten most common offences



1. Includes, for example, theft over and under \$5,000 as well as taking a motor vehicle without consent.

2. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

3. Given the possible influence of various factors on the number and types of cases completed in adult criminal courts, comparisons between jurisdictions should be interpreted with caution.

4. Adult criminal court cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence. For further information, see Data source section.

Between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011, virtually all types of cases involving violent crime remained stable or decreased (Table 3). More specifically, there were about 3,300 fewer cases involving violent offences (down by 3%) which included drops in cases for attempted murder, robbery, sexual assault, major assault, common assault and uttering threats. Cases involving homicide⁵ and criminal harassment remained stable.

The main exception to the trend in violent crime cases was among 'other sexual offences', a crime category comprised predominantly of child-specific offences (e.g., sexual interference). Combined, 'other sexual offences' rose for the fourth year in a row, including an 11% increase (or about 220 more cases) between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011.

For adult court cases involving non-violent offences, the overall number was similar between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011. For example, there was little change in the number of cases involving theft, the largest category of property crime cases. That said, there were fewer adult criminal court cases for fraud (-5%) and break and enter (-4%) completed over the same period.

Cases involving administration of justice offences, such as failure to comply with a court order and breach of probation, accounted for about 1 in 5 (21%) cases completed in adult criminal courts in 2010/2011. Although the number of such cases remained stable between 2009/2010 and 2010/2011, these types of cases have been gradually rising over the past decade, up 35% since 2000/2001.⁶

Following three consecutive annual increases, there were about 1,400 fewer impaired driving cases (-3%) in 2010/2011 than in 2009/2010. Similarly, the number of cases involving production, trafficking, importing and exporting decreased in 2010/2011 (down, as a whole, by about 670 cases or -5%), although cases for drug possession increased (up by almost 920 cases or +6%).

Young adults over-represented in criminal court cases

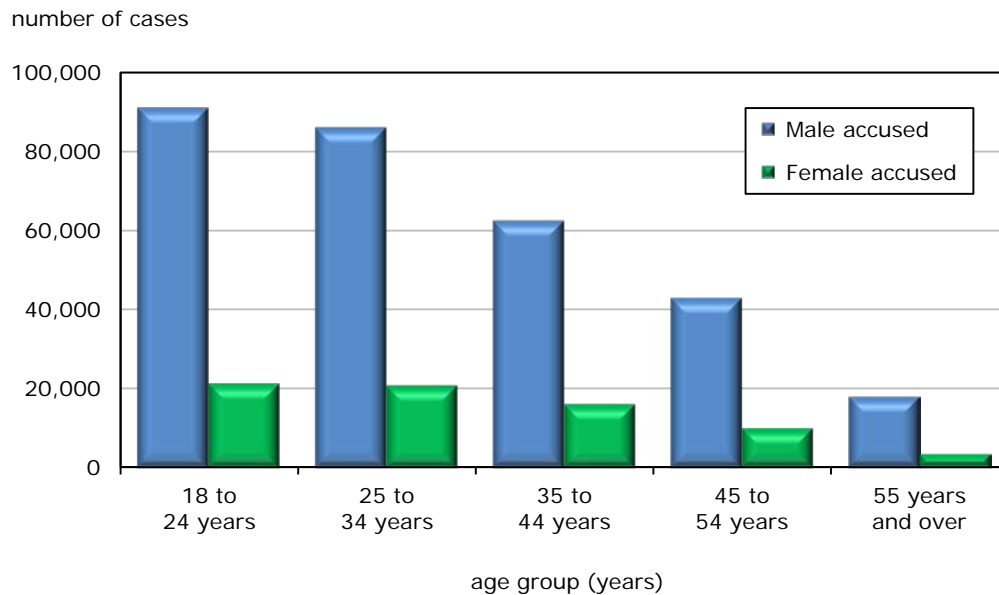
Research based upon policing data indicates that crime rates generally peak in early adulthood and decrease thereafter (Brennan and Dauvergne 2011). Data on adult criminal court cases show a similar pattern, despite the fact that not all crimes that come to the attention of police necessarily proceed to court. For example, while those aged 18 to 24 years accounted for 30% of persons accused in adult criminal court in 2010/2011, this same age group represented 12% of the adult population. In contrast, those aged 55 years and older accounted for 6% of accused adults yet represented 33% of the adult population. The decrease in the number of court cases by increasing age holds true for both men and women (Chart 3).

5. First and second degree murder cases are under the exclusive jurisdiction of superior courts. As such, information on these types of cases is missing from Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan where superior court data are unavailable.

6. Based upon information from ten provinces and territories that have consistently reported to the adult component of the ICCS since 2000/2001.

Chart 3

Cases completed in adult criminal court, by age group and sex of the accused, Canada, 2010/2011



Note: Includes information on accused persons aged 18 years or over at the time of the offence. Excludes cases in which the age and/or the sex of the accused was unknown. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from Manitoba, superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

The over-representation of young adults as accused persons holds true regardless of the type of case. That said, there were some types of adult criminal court cases, particularly some of the most violent ones, for which the share of 18- to 24 year-olds was greater than others. For example, the proportions of young adults accused in cases of robbery (50%), homicide (45%) and attempted murder (40%) were more than double those for criminal harassment (17%) and other sexual offences (19%).

As is also consistent with police-reported data, most cases in adult criminal court involve men. In 2010/2011, men accounted for about 8 in 10 persons accused in adult court cases (81%) while women accounted for about 2 in 10 (19%). Less than 1% of criminal court cases in 2010/2011 involved a company.

The proportion of men accused in cases for sexual assault and other sexual offences was particularly high at 98% and 97%, respectively. Cases for which the proportion of women was highest were largely non-violent in nature and included theft (35%) and fraud (31%).

Guilty findings remain stable in 2010/2011

In general, cases disposed of in adult criminal courts typically result in one of three decisions or outcomes. First, and most common, is a finding of guilt in which the accused person pleads guilty or is determined by the court to be responsible for having attempted or committed a criminal offence.⁷ Second, case proceedings may be stopped or interrupted for a variety of reasons (e.g., lack of sufficient evidence or referral to an alternative measures program) resulting in charges being stayed (suspended for up to one year), withdrawn, dismissed or discharged at preliminary inquiry. Lastly, a relatively small proportion of cases result in an acquittal in which the accused person is found not guilty of the charges presented before the court.⁸

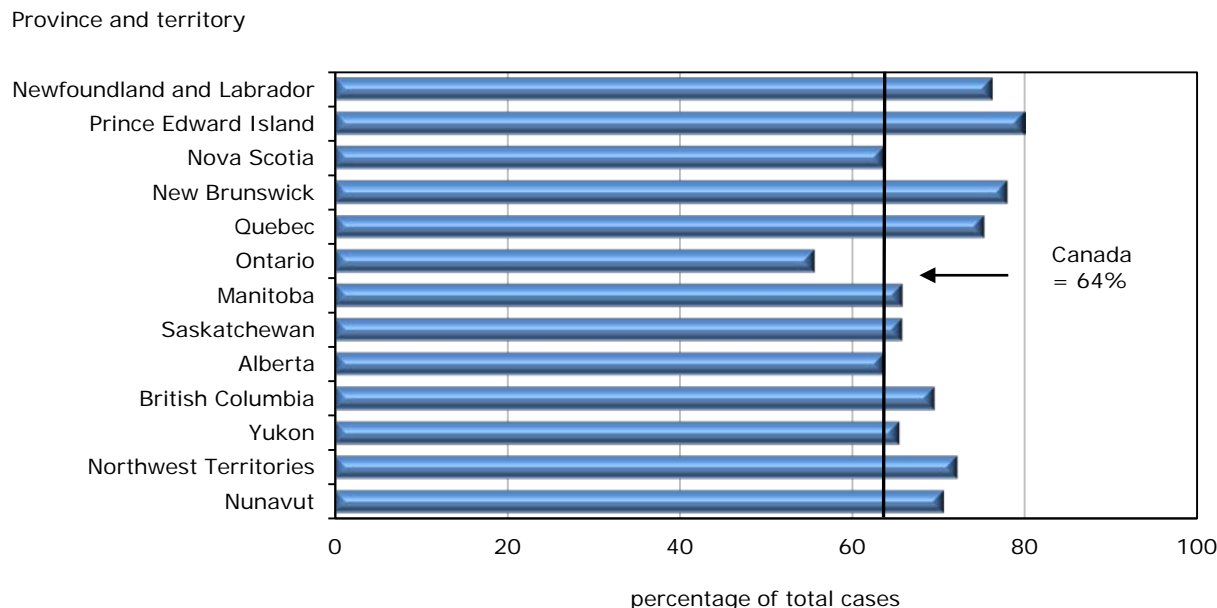
7. Guilty findings include guilty of the offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. Also includes cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.

8. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the terms 'acquittal' and 'dismissed' are used interchangeably, resulting in an under-count of the number of acquittals in that province. In other provinces, the number of acquittals may be over-counted due to administrative practices.

In 2010/2011, a guilty finding was reached in about two-thirds (64%) of cases, a proportion that has remained relatively consistent over the past decade. Another 32% of cases were stayed, withdrawn, dismissed or discharged at preliminary inquiry, and 3% were acquitted. The remaining 1% of cases resulted in another type of decision such as the accused being found not criminally responsible or unfit to stand trial, the court's acceptance of a special plea, or cases that raised Charter arguments (Table 4).

There was some variation in case decisions depending on the province or territory. More specifically, in 2010/2011, the proportion of guilty findings was highest in Prince Edward Island where 80% of all adult criminal court cases resulted in a finding of guilt. In comparison, the lowest proportion was in Ontario, at 56% (Chart 4).

Chart 4
Guilty cases in adult criminal court, by province and territory, 2010/2011



Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Court decisions may be affected by the use of pre-charge screening. Pre-charge screening refers to a formal process whereby a Crown prosecutor (as opposed to police) determines whether a charge is officially laid and proceeds to court. Pre-charge screening systems are in place in New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia, where the proportions of guilty findings were among the highest in the country in 2010/2011.

Another factor that may have an impact on the types of decisions reached in adult criminal court is plea negotiations or "plea bargaining". Plea negotiations involve an agreement by the accused to plead guilty in return for the prosecutor agreeing to take or refrain from taking a particular course of action (Verdun-Jones 2012). Broadly speaking, agreements may relate to the nature of the charges, the sentence, or the facts that may be presented in court. The extent to which plea negotiations are utilized in Canada is unknown.

Cases involving violent offences result in guilty findings less often than other cases

Cases involving some types of offences tend to result in a guilty finding less often than others. For example, in 2010/2011, cases involving violent offences were less likely than those for administration of justice offences or property offences to result in a finding of guilt (52% versus 71% and 60%, respectively) (Table 4).

Within these larger offence categories, however, there is considerable variation in the types of decisions reached by courts. Among violent cases, those involving 'other sexual offences' and robbery resulted in a finding of guilt most often, at 68% and 65% of all such completed cases in 2010/2011. In contrast, cases of attempted murder resulted in a finding of guilt least often, at 17% of all such cases. Most adult criminal court cases of attempted murder (68%) were stayed, withdrawn or dismissed.

Among administration of justice offences, cases involving failure to appear (47%) resulted in a guilty finding far less often than those involving offences of unlawfully at large (83%) or breach of probation (79%). Similarly, among cases for property offences, those for break and enter saw the highest proportion of guilty cases (69%) while possession of stolen property saw the lowest (48%).

Probation most common sentence imposed in adult criminal court

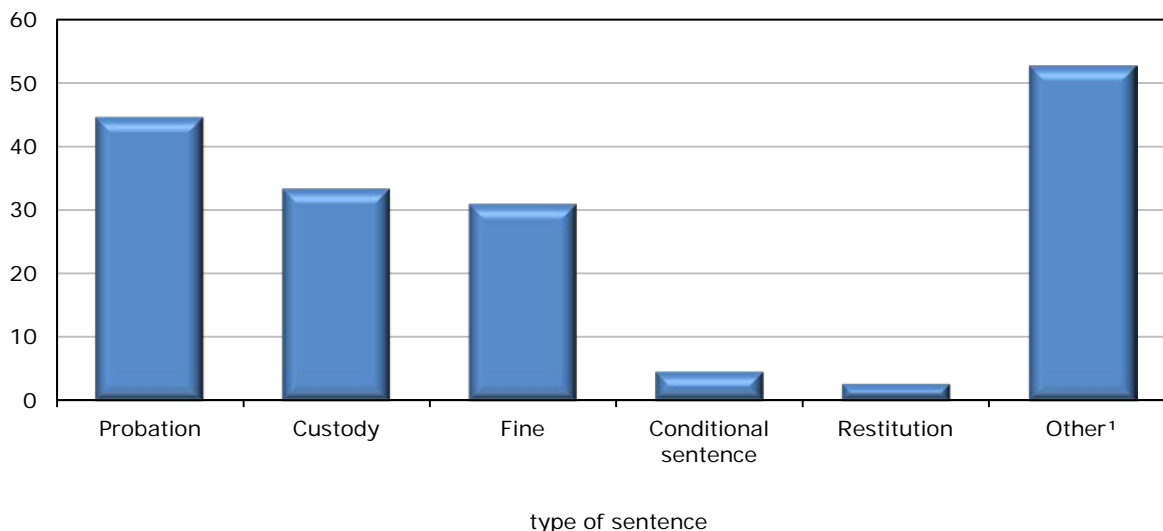
In Canada, judges are responsible for imposing sentences upon those who are guilty of a criminal offence. In doing so, they must consider the key principles of sentencing, including the protection of society, the rehabilitation of offenders and crime prevention. As well, judges may weigh certain mitigating or aggravating factors associated with the incident such as the type and gravity of the offence, the extent of harm inflicted upon the victim, and the number and nature of the accused person's previous convictions (Department of Justice 2005a). Given the complexities associated with determining an appropriate sanction, many cases result in more than one type of sentence (e.g., custody and probation).

In 2010/2011, probation, either on its own or in combination with other sanctions, was the most common type of sentence imposed in adult criminal courts, at 45% of all guilty cases (Table 5, Chart 5). Offenders sentenced to a term of probation remain in the community and are subject to a number of conditions (e.g., keep the peace, appear in court as required, or community service) which may vary from case to case. Probation sentences have been the most common type of sentence for more than a decade.⁹ In most provinces and territories, the median length of probation in 2010/2011 was 365 days (1 year). The main exception was in Saskatchewan where the median length was 270 days (or nine months).

Chart 5

Guilty cases in adult criminal court, by type of sentence, Canada, 2010/2011

percentage of guilty cases



1. Includes, for example, absolute and conditional discharge, suspended sentence, community service order and prohibition order.

Note: Cases may involve more than one type of sentence, therefore, percentages do not total 100%. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

9. See Note 6.

Another relatively common type of adult court sentence is a fine, imposed in nearly one-third (31%) of adult criminal court cases in 2010/2011. After determining an offender’s ability to pay, judges may opt to impose a fine of up to \$5,000 for less serious offences (e.g., disturbing the peace, trespassing) and any amount for more serious offences. Over the past 10 years, the median amount of fines rose from \$500 in 2000/2001 to \$1,000 in 2010/2011.¹⁰

Custody sentences imposed most often in Prince Edward Island

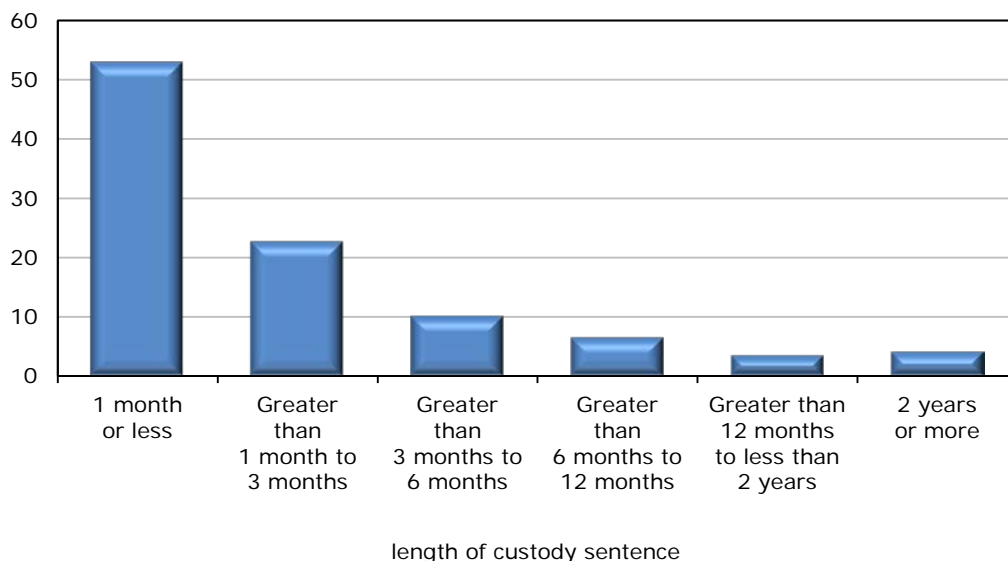
Custody sentences are those that involve a person being sentenced to a secure facility or a prison for a specified period of time. In Canada, there are two levels of custody for adults—provincial custody which involves sentences up to two years less a day and federal custody which involves sentence of two years or more.

Custodial sentences were imposed in about one-third (33%) of guilty adult criminal court cases completed in 2010/2011, similar to the proportion seen over the past decade.¹¹ In 2010/2011, the majority (86%) of all sentences to custody were relatively short, at six months or less. About 10% were sentenced to a period of six months to two years less a day and 4% received a sentence of two or more years (Chart 6).¹²

Chart 6

Guilty cases in adult criminal court, by length of custody sentence, Canada, 2010/2011

percentage of cases sentenced to custody



Note: Custodial sentence lengths exclude time spent in custody prior to sentencing and/or the amount of credit awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. Excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

10. See Note 6.

11. See Note 6.

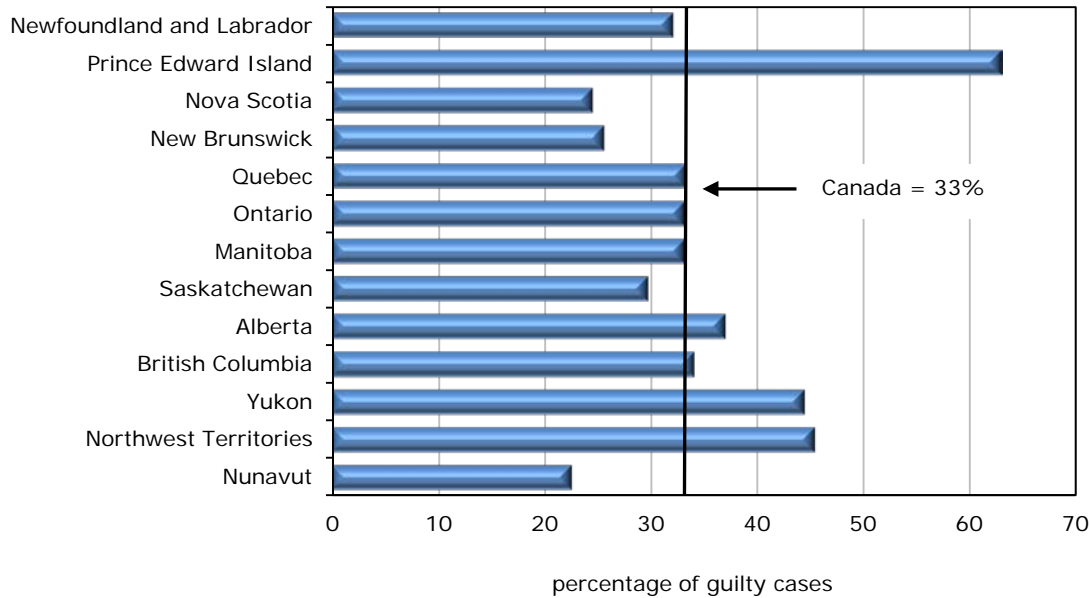
12. Custodial sentence lengths exclude time spent in custody prior to sentencing and/or the amount of credit awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody.

There is considerable variation in the use of custody across different provinces and territories. Of particular note is Prince Edward Island where custodial sentences tend to be imposed more frequently than in other provinces and territories. More specifically, in 2010/2011, 63% of all guilty cases in Prince Edward Island resulted in a custodial sentence, more than double the lowest proportions found in Nunavut (23%), Nova Scotia (25%) and New Brunswick (26%) (Chart 7). At the same time, however, the median length of custody was shortest in Prince Edward Island, at 14 days. This was about half the median length of custody for Canada as a whole (30 days) (Chart 8).¹³

Chart 7

Guilty cases in adult criminal court sentenced to custody, by province and territory, 2010/2011

Province and territory

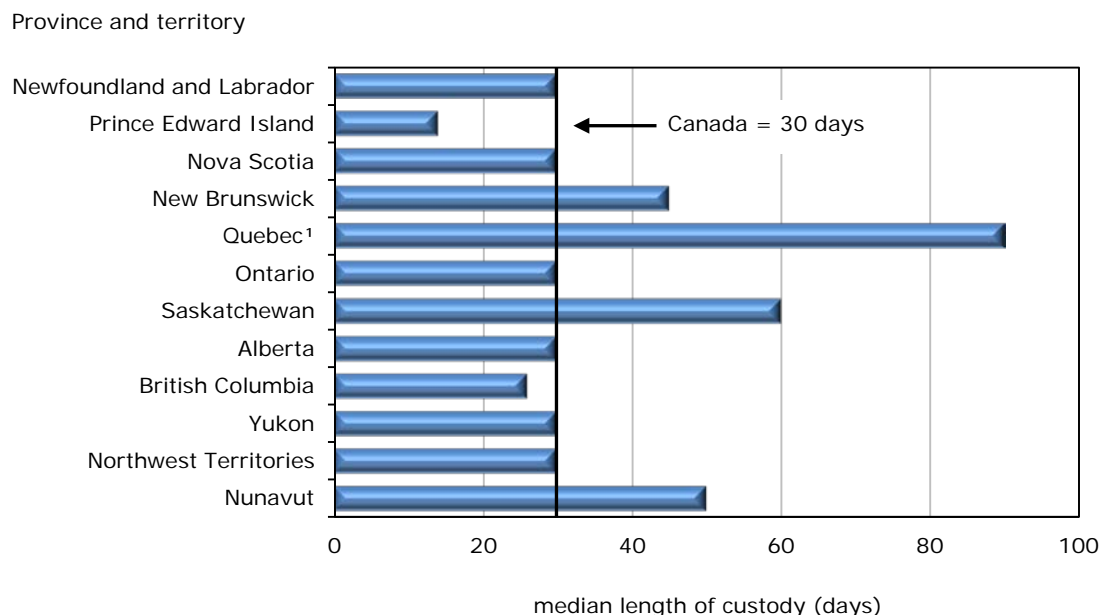


Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

13. Excludes information from Manitoba, superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Chart 8
Median length of custody for guilty cases in adult criminal court, by province and territory, 2010/2011



1. The median length of custody in Quebec may be over-estimated given that data from municipal courts, which tend to handle the least serious matters, are unavailable.

Note: The median represents the midpoint, where exactly half the custody sentences are above and half are below. Excludes information from Manitoba, superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

One reason for the relatively high proportion of custodial sentences in Prince Edward Island in 2010/2011 relates to cases of impaired driving. Not only did impaired driving cases comprise a larger proportion of all guilty cases in Prince Edward Island than elsewhere in Canada (28% versus 16%), but courts in Prince Edward Island were far more likely to sentence these types of cases to custody (93% versus 8% for Canada) (Chart 9). In other provinces and territories, fines were more typically imposed for impaired driving.^{14, 15}

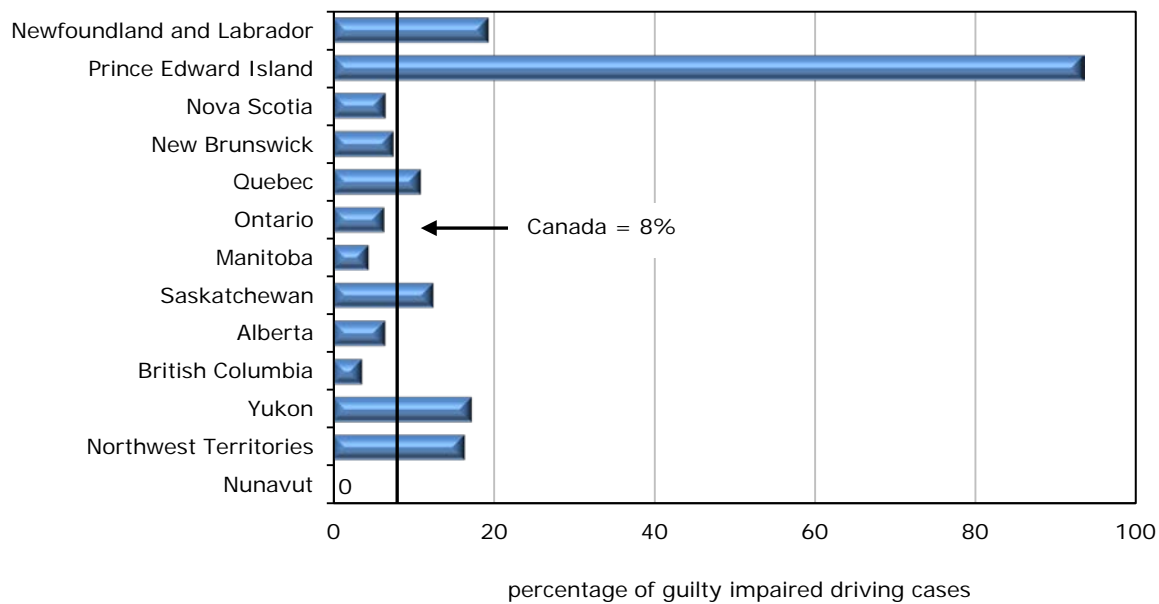
14. For further information on impaired driving statistics, see Perreault 2012.

15. Due to the unavailability of information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as jurisdictional differences in the structure and operation of courts, comparisons should be interpreted with caution.

Chart 9

Impaired driving cases sentenced to custody in adult criminal court, by province and territory, 2010/2011

Province and territory



Note: Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.

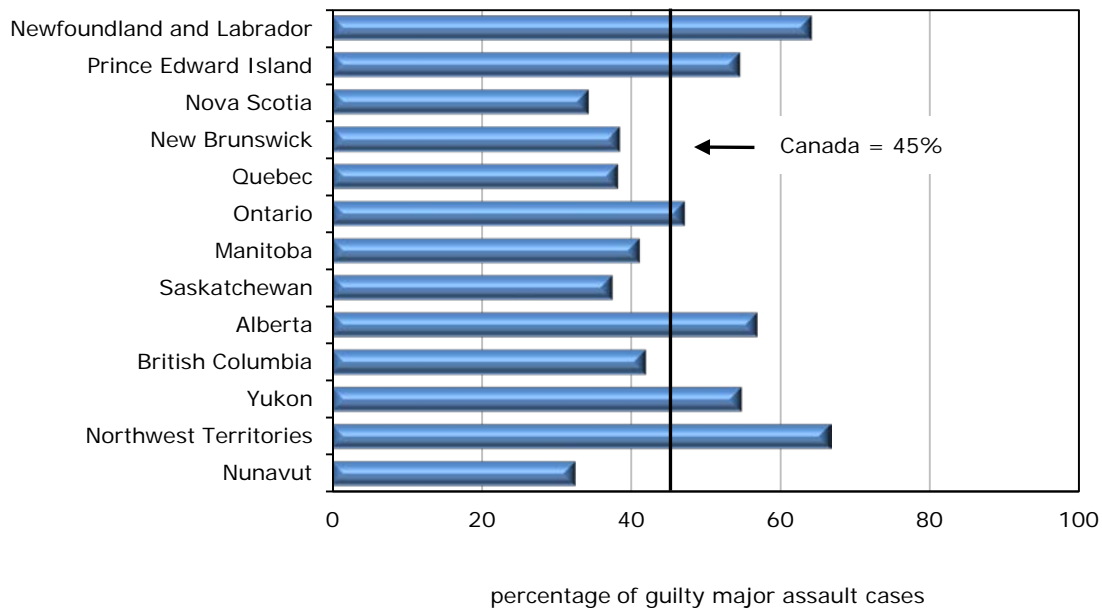
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Geographical differences in the use of custody can also be seen for other types of cases. While the majority of the most serious violent cases with a guilty finding, namely homicide, attempted murder and robbery, resulted in a custodial sentence in all provinces and territories, there was considerable variation in other types of cases, such as major assault (Chart 10) and break and enter (Chart 11).

Chart 10

Major assault cases sentenced to custody in adult criminal court, by province and territory, 2010/2011

Province and territory



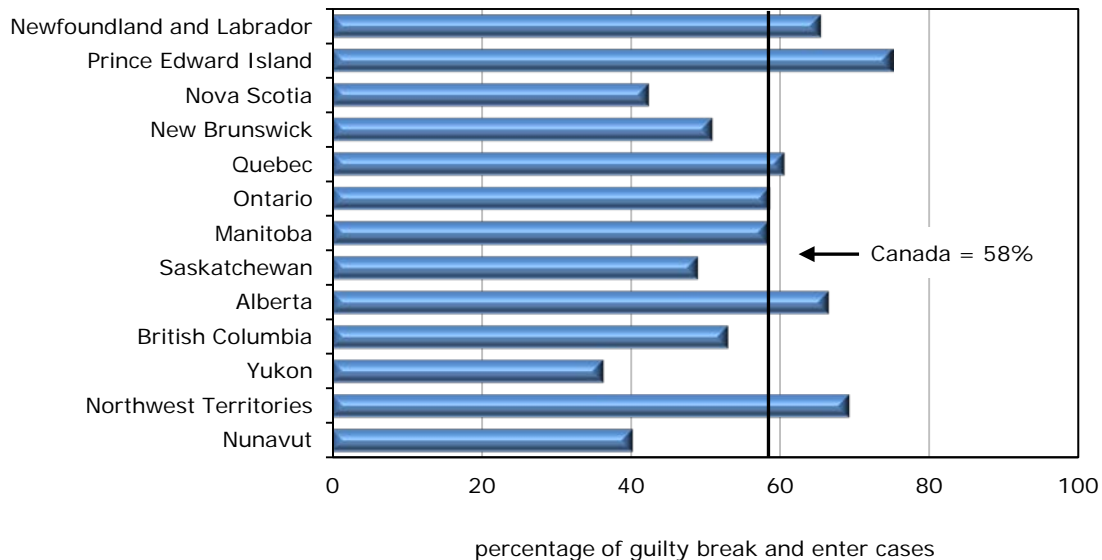
Note: Major assault includes assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, aggravated assault and other major assaults (e.g., assaulting a police officer). Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Chart 11

Break and enter cases sentenced to custody in adult criminal court, by province and territory, 2010/2011

Province and territory



Note: Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Time taken to complete adult criminal court cases declines for second year in a row

According to the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, accused persons have a fundamental right to be brought to trial in a timely manner.¹⁶ While there is no prescribed time limit within which criminal court cases must be completed, an 8 to 10 month period is generally considered to be reasonable.¹⁷

Following a period of relative stability from 2005/2006 to 2008/2009, the median amount of time from first court appearance to case completion fell for the second year in a row to 118 days (about 4 months) in 2010/2011. Despite recent declines, however, the elapsed period of time remained higher than a decade ago when the median length was 101 days.¹⁸

There was considerable provincial and territorial variation in the amount of time taken to complete adult criminal court cases in 2010/2011. As has been consistent over the past decade, the shortest median length of time was in Prince Edward Island at 29 days, about four times lower than the median length for Canada as a whole (Table 2, Chart 12).¹⁹

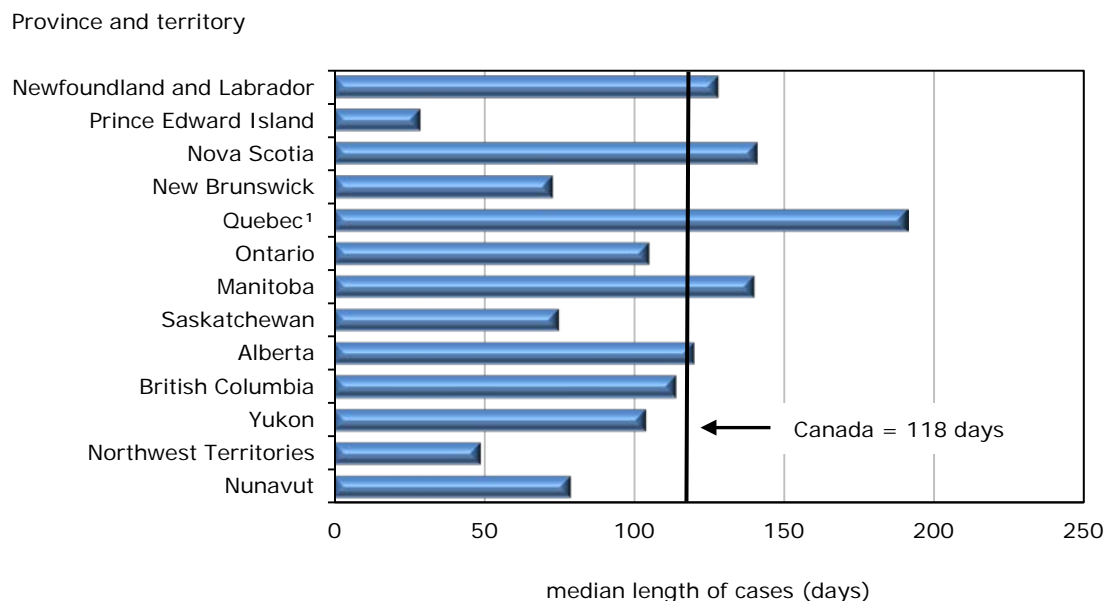
16. See *Constitution Act*, 1982. Part 1. *The Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, s. 11.

17. See *R. v. Askov* [1990], 2 S.C.R. 1199.

18. See Note 6.

19. See Note 13.

Chart 12
 Median length of cases completed in adult criminal court, by province and territory, 2010/2011



1. The median length of case completion in Quebec may be over-estimated given that data from municipal courts, which tend to handle the least serious matters, are unavailable.

Note: The median represents the mid-point of the number of days taken to complete a case, from the first to last court appearance. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Cases involving certain types of charges or multiple charges tend to take longer than others to complete. In 2010/2011, homicide cases generally took the longest with a median length of 391 days, followed by attempted murder (303 days) and sexual assault (300 days) (Table 3). Similarly, the median length of cases involving two or more charges was considerably longer than those involving single charges (147 days and 82 days, respectively).

Previous research has identified several other factors that tend to be associated with lengthier case completion, namely trial cases and those involving bench warrants (Thomas 2010). Trial cases are generally resource and time intensive as they often require many appearances to present evidence, hear the testimony of witnesses, and review victim impact statements. Cases involving bench warrants (i.e., those in which the court issues a warrant of arrest for an accused person who fails to appear) tend to be slowed by delays resulting from time taken to re-apprehend an accused person.

Summary

Following two consecutive annual decreases, the number of cases completed in adult criminal courts remained relatively stable in 2010/2011 at about 403,000 cases. As in previous years, cases for impaired driving and theft were the most common. Among violent crime cases, those for common assault were most frequent. Some provinces, namely British Columbia (-7%), Alberta (-6%) and Quebec (-6%), recorded fewer cases than in the previous year, yet, these drops were offset by increases in other provinces, such as Saskatchewan (+5%) and Ontario (+2%).

Case outcomes in 2010/2011 remained consistent with findings from previous years, with about two-thirds (64%) resulting in a finding of guilt. Probation was the most common type of sentence, at nearly one-half (45%) of all guilty cases. About one-third (33%) of guilty cases had a custodial sentence, though this varied considerably across provinces and territories and by different types of offences. Despite recent declines in the median number of days to complete adult court cases, the median length (118 days or nearly 4 months) remained higher than a decade ago.

Data source

Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS)

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) is administered by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (Statistics Canada) in collaboration with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for criminal courts in Canada. The survey collects statistical information on adult and youth court cases involving *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences. Data contained in this article represent the adult criminal court portion of the survey, namely, individuals who were 18 years of age or older at the time of the offence.

The primary unit of analysis is a case. A case is defined as one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. A case combines all charges against the same person having one or more key overlapping dates (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, date of decision, or date of sentencing) into a single case.

A case that has more than one charge is represented by the charge with the "most serious offence" (MSO). The most serious offence is selected using the following rules. First, court decisions are considered and the charge with the "most serious decision" (MSD) is selected. Court decisions for each charge in a case are ranked from most to least serious as follows: (1) guilty, (2) guilty of a lesser offence, (3) acquitted, (4) stay of proceeding, (5) withdrawn, dismissed or discharged, (6) not criminally responsible, (7) other, and (8) transfer of court jurisdiction.

Second, in cases where two or more charges result in the same MSD (e.g., guilty), *Criminal Code* sanctions are considered. The charge with the most serious offence type is selected according to an offence seriousness scale, based on actual sentences handed down by courts in Canada.²⁰ Each offence type is ranked by looking at (1) the proportion of guilty charges where custody was imposed and (2) the average (mean) length of custody for the specific type of offence. These values are multiplied together to arrive at the final seriousness ranking for each type of offence. If, after looking at the offence seriousness scale, two or more charges remain tied then information about the sentence type and duration of the sentence are considered (e.g., custody and length of custody, then probation and length of probation, etc.).

In 2010/2011, coverage of the ICCS represented approximately 95% of the total adult caseload completed in Canadian criminal courts. As in previous years, information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec (which accounted for about one-quarter of all *Criminal Code* charges in that province) could not be extracted from their electronic reporting systems and was therefore unavailable.

The absence of data from superior courts in these five jurisdictions may have resulted in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences since some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts. There may also be a slight underestimation of case elapsed times as more serious cases generally require more court appearances and take more time to complete.

Cases are counted according to the fiscal year in which they are completed. Each year, the ICCS database is "frozen" at the end of March for the production of court statistics pertaining to the preceding fiscal year. However, these counts do not include cases that were pending an outcome at the end of the reference period. Once an outcome is reached, or a one-year period of inactivity elapses, these cases are deemed complete and are subsequently updated and reported in the next year's release of the data. For example, upon the release of 2010/2011 data, the 2009/2010 data are updated with revisions that were determined when processing data for the next fiscal year. Data are revised once and are then permanently "frozen". Historically, updates to a previous year's numbers have resulted in an increase of about 2%.

20. The offence seriousness scale is calculated using data from both the adult and youth components of the Integrated Criminal Court Survey from 2002/2003 to 2006/2007.

Lastly, there are many factors that influence variations between jurisdictions. These may include Crown and police charging practices, offence distributions, and various forms of diversion programs. Therefore, any comparisons between jurisdictions should be interpreted with caution.

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Detailed data tables

Table 1
Charges and cases completed in adult criminal court, Canada, 2005/2006 to 2010/2011

Year	Total charges ¹		Total cases ²	
	number	Percent change from previous year (%)	number	Percent change from previous year (%)
2005/2006	1,094,431	..	382,322	..
2006/2007	1,109,587	1.4	380,537	-0.5
2007/2008	1,151,509	3.8	393,193	3.3
2008/2009	1,187,324	3.1	398,697	1.4
2009/2010	1,224,188	3.1	410,050	2.8
2010/2011	1,196,917	-2.2	402,980	-1.7

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. A charge refers to a formal accusation against an accused person or company involving a federal statute offence that has been processed by the courts and received a final decision.

2. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition.

Note: Data begin in 2005/2006 when information from all provincial and territorial courts became available. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 2
Cases completed in adult criminal court, by province and territory, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Province and territory	2009/2010			2010/2011			Percent change in number of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 (%)	Difference in length of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 (days)
	number	rate ¹	median length of case (days) ²	number	rate ¹	median length of case (days) ²		
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,767	1,392	113	5,744	1,379	128	-0.4	15
Prince Edward Island	1,447	1,293	29	1,455	1,283	29	0.6	0
Nova Scotia	13,524	1,774	136	13,206	1,719	141	-2.4	5
New Brunswick	8,710	1,435	78	8,385	1,373	73	-3.7	-5
Quebec	70,460	1,119	184	66,344	1,040	191	-5.8	7
Ontario	156,778	1,517	113	159,539	1,521	105	1.8	-8
Manitoba	18,595	1,985	142	18,736	1,971	140	0.8	-2
Saskatchewan	23,498	2,972	71	24,765	3,080	75	5.4	4
Alberta	59,855	2,095	126	56,294	1,941	120	-5.9	-6
British Columbia	46,644	1,293	99	43,610	1,185	114	-6.5	15
Yukon	1,128	4,260	86	1,085	3,981	104	-3.8	18
Northwest Territories	2,020	6,327	57	1,889	5,878	49	-6.5	-8
Nunavut	1,624	8,155	73	1,928	9,292	79	18.7	6
Canada	410,050	1,530	120	402,980	1,482	118	-1.7	-2

1. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 adult population (18 years and older). Populations based upon July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

2. Refers to the mid-point in the number of days taken to complete a case, from first to last court appearance.

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data. There are many factors that may influence variations between jurisdictions, therefore, comparisons should be made with caution.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 3
Cases completed in adult criminal court, by type of offence, Canada, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Type of offence ¹	2009/2010		2010/2011		Percent change in number of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 (%)	Difference in length of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 (days)
	number ²	median length of case (days) ³	number ²	median length of case (days) ³		
Violent offences	96,688	157	93,347	157	-3.5	0
Homicide	279	361	281	391	0.7	30
Attempted murder	197	291	154	303	-21.8	12
Robbery	4,472	200	4,118	207	-7.9	7
Sexual assault	4,092	307	3,989	300	-2.5	-7
Other sexual offences ⁴	2,062	261	2,286	267	10.9	6
Major assault ⁵	21,909	183	20,929	183	-4.5	0
Common assault	38,609	125	37,604	127	-2.6	2
Uttering threats	18,607	147	17,652	145	-5.1	-2
Criminal harassment	3,200	156	3,239	147	1.2	-9
Other violent offences	3,261	202	3,095	196	-5.1	-6
Property offences	98,180	103	96,567	102	-1.6	-1
Theft ⁶	42,472	73	42,566	75	0.2	2
Break and enter	11,708	148	11,244	148	-4.0	0
Fraud	15,196	159	14,451	155	-4.9	-4
Mischief	14,843	106	14,691	107	-1.0	1
Possess stolen property	11,982	105	11,843	99	-1.2	-6
Other property offences	1,979	134	1,772	140	-10.5	6
Administration of justice offences	84,683	73	84,697	70	0.0	-3
Fail to appear	4,764	94	4,983	76	4.6	-18
Breach of probation	31,583	60	31,157	57	-1.3	-3
Unlawfully at large	2,529	22	2,531	18	0.1	-4
Fail to comply with order	36,824	79	37,247	76	1.1	-3
Other administration of justice offences	8,983	121	8,779	115	-2.3	-6
Other Criminal Code offences	19,475	148	18,639	144	-4.3	-4
Weapon offences	10,109	170	9,776	164	-3.3	-6
Prostitution	1,719	89	1,580	96	-8.1	7
Disturbing the peace	1,756	65	1,764	64	0.5	-1
Residual <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	5,891	172	5,519	169	-6.3	-3
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	299,026	114	293,250	113	-1.9	-1
Criminal Code traffic offences	61,244	155	59,452	144	-2.9	-11
Impaired driving	49,462	152	48,033	137	-2.9	-15
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic offences	11,782	166	11,419	162	-3.1	-4
Total Criminal Code offences	360,270	120	352,702	116	-2.1	-4

Table 3 (continued)

Cases completed in adult criminal court, by type of offence, Canada, 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

Type of offence ¹	2009/2010		2010/2011		Percent change in number of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 (%)	Difference in length of cases 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 (days)
	number ²	median length of case (days) ³	number ²	median length of case (days) ³		
Other federal statute offences	49,780	134	50,278	126	1.0	-8
Drug possession	15,442	85	16,363	84	6.0	-1
Other drug offences ⁷	13,124	228	12,457	232	-5.1	4
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>	1,409	58	1,473	59	4.5	1
Residual federal statute offences	19,805	137	19,985	131	0.9	-6
Total	410,050	120	402,980	118	-1.7	-2

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.

2. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition.

3. Refers to the mid-point in the number of days taken to complete a case, from first to last court appearance.

4. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.

5. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).

6. Includes, for example, theft over and under \$5,000 as well as taking a motor vehicle without consent.

7. Includes drug trafficking, production, importing and exporting.

Note: In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload. Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 4
Cases completed in adult criminal court, by type of offence and decision, Canada, 2010/2011

Type of offence ¹	Guilty ²		Stayed/ Withdrawn ³		Acquitted		Other ⁴		Total cases	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Violent offences	48,358	52	37,568	40	5,943	6	1,478	2	93,347	100
Homicide	133	47	126	45	7	2	15	5	281	100
Attempted murder	26	17	105	68	4	3	19	12	154	100
Robbery	2,682	65	1,271	31	113	3	52	1	4,118	100
Sexual assault	1,680	42	1,860	47	369	9	80	2	3,989	100
Other sexual offences ⁵	1,564	68	600	26	79	3	43	2	2,286	100
Major assault ⁶	11,411	55	7,879	38	1,356	6	283	1	20,929	100
Common assault	18,644	50	16,677	44	1,835	5	448	1	37,604	100
Uttering threats	9,198	52	6,452	37	1,662	9	340	2	17,652	100
Criminal harassment	1,678	52	1,236	38	219	7	106	3	3,239	100
Other violent offences	1,342	43	1,362	44	299	10	92	3	3,095	100
Property offences	58,043	60	36,035	37	1,556	2	933	1	96,567	100
Theft ⁷	26,210	62	15,684	37	374	1	298	1	42,566	100
Break and enter	7,797	69	2,868	26	420	4	159	1	11,244	100
Fraud	8,906	62	5,115	35	183	1	247	2	14,451	100
Mischief	8,174	56	6,067	41	334	2	116	1	14,691	100
Possess stolen property	5,686	48	5,867	50	199	2	91	1	11,843	100
Other property offences	1,270	72	434	24	46	3	22	1	1,772	100
Administration of justice offences	59,776	71	22,369	26	1,435	2	1,117	1	84,697	100
Fail to appear	2,335	47	2,570	52	13	0	65	1	4,983	100
Breach of probation	24,610	79	5,761	18	508	2	278	1	31,157	100
Unlawfully at large	2,107	83	372	15	40	2	12	0	2,531	100
Fail to comply with order	24,571	66	11,343	30	704	2	629	2	37,247	100
Other administration of justice offences	6,153	70	2,323	26	170	2	133	2	8,779	100
Other Criminal Code offences	10,677	57	7,215	39	540	3	207	1	18,639	100
Weapon offences	6,128	63	3,233	33	316	3	99	1	9,776	100
Prostitution	422	27	1,134	72	19	1	5	0	1,580	100
Disturbing the peace	1,052	60	691	39	14	1	7	0	1,764	100
Residual Criminal Code offences	3,075	56	2,157	39	191	3	96	2	5,519	100
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic)	176,854	60	103,187	35	9,474	3	3,735	1	293,250	100
Criminal Code traffic offences	49,115	83	8,225	14	1,617	3	495	1	59,452	100
Impaired driving	40,144	84	6,124	13	1,404	3	361	1	48,033	100
Other Criminal Code traffic offences	8,971	79	2,101	18	213	2	134	1	11,419	100
Total Criminal Code offences	225,969	64	111,412	32	11,091	3	4,230	1	352,702	100

Table 4 (continued)

Cases completed in adult criminal court, by type of offence and decision, Canada, 2010/2011

Type of offence ¹	Guilty ²		Stayed/ Withdrawn ³		Acquitted		Other ⁴		Total cases	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
Other federal statute offences	31,451	63	17,025	34	1,209	2	593	1	50,278	100
Drug possession	7,533	46	8,727	53	32	0	71	0	16,363	100
Other drug offences ⁸	6,644	53	5,593	45	120	1	100	1	12,457	100
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>	1,067	72	394	27	2	0	10	1	1,473	100
Residual federal statute offences	16,207	81	2,311	12	1,055	5	412	2	19,985	100
Total	257,420	64	128,437	32	12,300	3	4,823	1	402,980	100

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.

2. Guilty findings include guilty of the offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. Also includes cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.

3. Includes stays, withdrawals, dismissals and discharges at preliminary inquiry as well as court referrals to alternative or extrajudicial measures and restorative justice programs.

4. Includes final decisions of found not criminally responsible and waived in or out of province or territory. Also includes any order where a conviction was not recorded, the court's acceptance of a special plea, cases that raise Charter arguments and cases where the accused was found unfit to stand trial.

5. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.

6. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).

7. Includes, for example, theft over and under \$5,000 as well as taking a motor vehicle without consent.

8. Includes drug trafficking, production, importing and exporting.

Note: A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

Table 5
Guilty cases completed in adult criminal court, by type of offence and select sentence,
Canada, 2010/2011

Type of offence ¹	Total guilty cases	Custody			Probation			Fine		
		number	%	median length (days) ²	number	%	median length (days) ³	number	%	median amount (\$) ⁴
Violent offences	48,358	16,067	33	88	36,474	75	365	3,267	7	350
Homicide	133	105	79	1,825	9	7	1,095	2	2	x
Attempted murder	26	21	81	2,190	8	31	1,095	0	0	0
Robbery	2,682	2,160	81	450	1,338	50	730	10	0	400
Sexual assault	1,680	898	53	360	1,134	68	730	42	3	500
Other sexual offences ⁵	1,564	989	63	120	1,174	75	730	88	6	300
Major assault ⁶	11,411	5,117	45	90	8,037	70	365	737	6	500
Common assault	18,644	2,674	14	30	15,029	81	365	1,498	8	400
Uttering threats	9,198	3,003	33	30	7,267	79	365	751	8	250
Criminal harassment	1,678	474	28	59	1,508	90	545	82	5	450
Other violent offences	1,342	626	47	180	970	72	540	57	4	400
Property offences	58,043	22,178	38	45	34,353	59	365	8,254	14	250
Theft ⁷	26,210	9,932	38	30	14,234	54	365	4,771	18	250
Break and enter	7,797	4,540	58	150	5,030	65	540	264	3	400
Fraud	8,906	2,880	32	60	5,766	65	365	948	11	300
Mischief	8,174	1,571	19	18	5,696	70	365	1,215	15	300
Possess stolen property	5,686	2,511	44	45	2,870	50	365	980	17	400
Other property offences	1,270	744	59	90	757	60	365	76	6	250
Administration of justice offences	59,776	28,186	47	15	20,378	34	365	13,696	23	250
Fail to appear	2,335	954	41	6	545	23	365	716	31	200
Breach of probation	24,610	13,016	53	20	9,169	37	365	4,835	20	250
Unlawfully at large	2,107	1,761	84	24	404	19	365	135	6	300
Fail to comply with order	24,571	10,595	43	10	7,673	31	365	6,215	25	200
Other administration of justice offences	6,153	1,860	30	20	2,587	42	365	1,795	29	300
Other Criminal Code offences	10,677	4,124	39	80	5,708	53	365	2,025	19	300
Weapon offences	6,128	2,400	39	60	3,167	52	365	1,163	19	300
Prostitution	422	100	24	10	184	44	365	119	28	250
Disturbing the peace	1,052	178	17	3	512	49	365	330	31	300
Residual <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	3,075	1,446	47	150	1,845	60	540	413	13	250
Total Criminal Code (excluding traffic) offences	176,854	70,555	40	30	96,913	55	365	27,242	15	250
Criminal Code traffic offences	49,115	7,387	15	36	7,141	15	365	39,081	80	1,000
Impaired driving	40,144	3,287	8	33	4,055	10	365	35,805	89	1,000
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> traffic offences	8,971	4,100	46	45	3,086	34	365	3,276	37	750
Total Criminal Code offences	225,969	77,942	34	30	104,054	46	365	66,323	29	1,000

Table 5 (continued)
Guilty cases completed in adult criminal court, by type of offence and select sentence,
Canada, 2010/2011

Type of offence ¹	Total guilty cases	Custody			Probation			Fine		
		number	%	median length (days) ²	number	%	median length (days) ³	number	%	median amount (\$) ⁴
Other federal statute offences	31,451	7,980	25	90	10,534	33	365	13,346	42	300
Drug possession	7,533	787	10	7	2,621	35	365	3,922	52	300
Other drug offences ⁸	6,644	2,799	42	167	2,010	30	365	532	8	1,000
<i>Youth Criminal Justice Act</i>	1,067	341	32	7	400	37	365	280	26	230
Residual federal statute offences	16,207	4,053	25	90	5,503	34	365	8,612	53	250
Total	257,420	85,922	33	30	114,588	45	365	79,669	31	1,000

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

1. Cases that involve more than one charge are represented by the most serious offence.
2. Custodial sentence lengths exclude time spent in custody prior to sentencing and/or the amount of credit awarded for time spent in pre-sentence custody. Also excludes cases in which the length of the custody sentence was unknown.
3. Excludes cases in which the length of the probation sentence was unknown.
4. Excludes cases in which the amount of the fine was unknown.
5. Includes, for example, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, child pornography, luring a child via a computer and sexual exploitation.
6. Includes, for example, assault with a weapon (level 2) and aggravated assault (level 3).
7. Includes, for example, theft over and under \$5,000 as well as taking a motor vehicle without consent.
8. Includes drug trafficking, production, importing and exporting.

Note: Cases may involve more than one type of sentence and/or other sentences not shown, therefore, percentages do not total 100%. A case is one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final disposition. In total, data represent approximately 95% of the national adult criminal court caseload.

Excludes information from superior courts in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.