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ADULT CRIMINAL COURT STATISTICS, 1999/00

by Liisa Pent¹

HIGHLIGHTS

- In the fiscal year 1999/00, adult criminal courts in 9 provinces and territories (not including New Brunswick, Manitoba, British Columbia and Nunavut) processed 378,586 cases involving 811,382 charges, a 4% decrease from the previous year. Since 1994/95, total cases have declined by 15% in these jurisdictions.
- *Crimes against the person* (e.g., homicide, robbery, assaults) accounted for 20% of the cases heard in 1999/00, *Crimes against property* (e.g., break and enter, theft, fraud) accounted for 25%, and *Other Criminal Code Violations* (e.g., administration of justice and weapons) accounted for 29%. Six percent of all cases were *other federal statute* cases (e.g. Fisheries Act, Income Tax Act), with *Traffic* and *Drug related offences* representing 14% and 6% respectively of the total cases in 1999/00.
- The two offences most frequently heard in court were impaired driving and common assaults, each accounting for 12% of cases.
- While impaired driving was the most frequent offence heard in court in many jurisdictions, the proportion of impaired driving cases has decreased from 15% of all cases in 1994/95 to 12% of all cases in 1999/00.
- One third of adult criminal cases were resolved within a month, and just under half (45%) took more than one, but no more than eight months to complete in 1999/00. It took more than eight months but no more than twelve months to complete 12% of cases, and more than one year to dispose of 10% of total cases.
- Since 1994/95, adult criminal courts have seen a steady increase in both the proportion of multiple-charge cases and the average number of charges per case.
- In 1999/00, the conviction rate in adult criminal courts was 61%, a rate that has remained relatively stable since 1994/95.
- A term of probation was the most frequently imposed sanction (42% of convicted cases). A fine was imposed in 39% of cases, and a term of imprisonment in 34% of cases.
- The proportion of cases sentenced to prison varies significantly across the country. In Prince Edward Island, more than half of convictions resulted in a term of imprisonment, while a term of custody was imposed in just under one case in four convicted cases in Saskatchewan.

¹ Senior Analyst, Courts Program.



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