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YOUTH CUSTODY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN CANADA, 1999/00

by *Dianne Hendrick*

Highlights

- Admissions to youth correctional services declined in 1999/00. More than half of admissions to correctional services were to probation. The rate of admissions to probation was down 8% compared to the previous year, to 147 admissions per 10,000 youth.
- Admissions to secure and open custody (sentenced custody) accounted for 21% of youth correctional admissions. The rate of sentenced custody declined by 7%, to 64 admissions per 10,000 youth.
- Remand admissions accounted for 25% of youth correctional admissions. The remand rate declined by 4%, to 69 admissions per 10,000 youth.
- Time served in remand custody is short – about one week or less for half of those released. In comparison, just over half of releases from open custody (51%) and secure custody (56%) took place within one month of admission.
- The most common admissions to sentenced custody (open and secure) were related to property offences, accounting for 42% of admissions. Violent offences accounted for 22% of admissions and offences under the *Young Offenders Act* for 21%. The most common admissions to probation were property offences (49%) or violent offences (29%).
- Aboriginal youth continued to be over-represented in the youth correctional system. Among the ten jurisdictions to report Aboriginal status, Aboriginal youth accounted for 23% of admissions to sentenced custody, while they accounted for only 5% of the youth population in these jurisdictions.
- The average number of young offenders on probation at any given time far exceeds the average number of young offenders in custody, ranging from 7 to 10 times higher among reporting jurisdictions.

