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YOUTH COURT STATISTICS, 1999/00

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Highlights

- In 1999/00, 102,000 cases were processed in the youth courts of Canada. This represents a 4% decrease from the previous year and a decrease of 11% from 1992/93. It also represents a 17% decrease in the number of cases per 10,000 youths from 1992/93; since that year, the rate has dropped from 500 cases to 417 cases.
- From 1992/93 to 1999/00, the rate of property crime cases decreased annually, dropping 38% over this period. The rate of violent crime cases has dropped by 3% since 1998/99, yet remains at the same level reported in 1992/93.
- Five offences accounted for a large proportion (58%) of the total caseload. These were theft under \$5,000, failure to comply with a disposition under the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA), failure to appear, breaking and entering and minor assault.
- Older youths, aged 16 to 17, were involved in the majority of cases before youth courts (51%). Youth aged 15 were involved in 21% of cases while younger adolescents aged 12 to 14 years accounted for the remaining 25%.
- Two-thirds of cases heard in youth court resulted in a conviction. This proportion has remained virtually unchanged since 1992/93.
- Probation was the most significant sentence in 48% of all cases with convictions while custody (open and secure) was ordered approximately one-third of the time.
- Repeat offenders (defined as youths with at least one prior conviction) were involved in 35% of cases with convictions.
- More than 80% of all youth court cases were concluded within six months. Almost 50% were settled within 2 months.

