

It will be observed that the age group 16 to under 21 years shows a much higher crime rate than the juvenile group (7 to under 16 years) or the total young persons group (7 to under 21 years). In recent years the rate for this group has shown a continuous increase, reaching 686 convictions per 100,000 over the juvenile rate and 434 over the young persons rate in 1939.

20.—Convictions of Juveniles for Major Offences and of Adults Aged 16-21 for Indictable Offences, by Age Groups and Rates per 100,000 Population of the Same Ages, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1911, 1921, 1931, and 1937-39.

Year	Con- victions of Persons 7 to Under 16 Years of Age (Juveniles)	Con- victions of Persons 16 to Under 21 Years of Age	Total Con- victions of Persons 7 to Under 21 Years of Age	Rates per 100,000 Population		
				7 to Under 16 Years	16 to Under 21 Years	7 to Under 21 Years
1911.....	1,439	1,640	3,079	111	238	155
1921.....	3,247	3,288	6,535	192	419	264
1931.....	5,311	6,453	11,764	271	630	394
1937.....	5,224	7,503	12,727	265	708	419
1938.....	5,055	8,492	13,547	263	786	452
1939.....	5,018	10,480	15,498	264	950	516

Major Offences.—From Table 21 it will be observed that theft and receiving stolen goods; breaking, entering, and theft; and other wilful damage to property account for the great bulk of the offences; in 1939, 93 p.c. of the major offences were of this character.

21.—Juvenile Delinquents Convicted of Major Offences, by Type of Offence, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1932-39

Offence	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Murder.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Manslaughter.....	"	1	"	"	1	"	"	"
Rape, carnal knowledge, and incest.....	5	8	15	8	10	8	5	17
Indecent assault.....	34	28	24	29	31	32	41	54
Aggravated assault and wounding..	68	16	36	60	24	31	32	26
Common assault.....	104	139	115	98	102	83	68	66
Endangering life on railway.....	17	50	31	48	30	27	30	21
Other offences against the person...	4	5	6	5	5	5	8	6
Breaking, entering, and theft.....	914	957	1,071	1,022	1,015	1,204	1,110	1,189
Robbery.....	13	15	1	9	4	18	12	18
Theft and receiving stolen goods...	3,093	3,155	3,094	3,548	3,094	3,128	3,043	2,916
False pretences and fraud.....	9	9	20	14	12	14	19	10
Arson.....	19	24	28	13	15	10	10	11
Other wilful damage to property...	676	637	776	599	539	565	602	578
Forgery and offences against the currency.....	11	4	11	12	11	10	9	13
Immorality.....	85	72	73	35	52	48	45	36
Various other offences.....	44	24	52	14	25	41	21	57
Totals.....	5,096	5,144	5,353	5,514	4,970	5,224	5,055	5,018

Recidivism.—The number of juvenile delinquents who have previously appeared before a court has generally increased although the fluctuations between individual years are rather wide over the period for which figures are available. As shown in Table 22, more than one-fourth (28·42 p.c.) of the juveniles convicted of major offences in 1939 had previously been found guilty, as compared with less than one-fourth of those convicted of similar offences in 1929 (23·27 p.c.).