

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). After increasing steadily in recent years, the rate for this group dropped from 950 per 100,000 population in 1939 to 773 in 1942. However, an increase to 900 per 100,000 in 1943⁵ is noted.

21.—Convictions of Juveniles for Major Offences and of Adults for Indictable Offences, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1911, 1921, 1931 and 1939-43

Year	Convictions of Persons—			Rates per 100,000 Population		
	7 to Under 16 Years (Juveniles)	16 to Under 21 Years	7 to Under 21 Years	7 to Under 16 Years (Juveniles)	16 to Under 21 Years	7 to Under 21 Years
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
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
1939.....	5,018	10,480	15,498	264	950	516
1940.....	5,298	9,471	14,769	289	850	485
1941.....	6,204	8,580	14,784	321	783	488
1942.....	6,920	8,468	15,388	358	773	508
1943.....	6,494	10,055	16,549	333	900	540

Major Offences.—From Table 22 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 1943, 93.0 p.c. of the major offences were in these classes.

Wartime Trends.—Major offences for juveniles, which had decreased 9.0 p.c. during the four years immediately preceding the War, increased by 29.4 p.c. during the war years 1939-43. The increases were chiefly in theft, burglary and common assault. Convictions for theft, which had decreased 19.3 p.c. from 1935 to 1939 have shown an increase of 26.6 p.c. from 1939 to 1943. Thefts of bicycles and automobiles have also shown a much faster rate of increase during the four war years than during the four years immediately preceding the war. The rate of increase for burglary, which had been 16.3 p.c. in the period 1935-39, advanced to 28.8 p.c. during 1939-43. Convictions for common assault which had declined 32.7 p.c. from 1935 to 1939 have shown an increase of 78.8 p.c. for the war years. Malicious damage to property showed a 3.7 p.c. decrease during the 1935 to 1939 pre-war period as compared with a 51.4 p.c. increase during the war years.

22.—Juvenile Delinquents Convicted of Major Offences, by Type of Offence, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1936-43

Offence	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
	No. Nil	No. Nil	No. Nil	No. Nil	No. Nil	No. Nil	No. Nil	No. Nil
Murder.....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Manslaughter.....	1	"	"	"	2	"	1	1
Rape, carnal knowledge and incest.....	10	8	5	17	12	9	5	1
Indecent assault.....	31	32	41	54	32	43	30	46
Aggravated assault and wounding.....	24	31	32	26	24	59	23	28
Common assault.....	102	83	68	66	99	93	107	118
Endangering life on railway.....	30	27	30	21	28	54	38	63
Other offences against the person.....	5	5	8	6	11	5	2	1
Breaking, entering and theft.....	1,015	1,204	1,110	1,189	1,245	1,396	1,497	1,532
Robbery.....	4	18	12	18	16	11	39	18
Theft and receiving stolen goods.....	3,094	3,128	3,043	2,916	3,037	3,439	4,023	3,640
False pretences and fraud.....	12	14	19	10	17	28	16	18
Arson.....	15	10	10	11	5	34	21	23
Other wilful damage to property.....	539	565	602	578	657	913	994	869
Forgery and offences against the currency.....	11	10	9	13	8	14	11	21
Immorality.....	52	48	45	36	47	61	49	63
Various other offences.....	25	41	21	57	58	45	64	52
Totals.....	4,970	5,224	5,055	5,018	5,298	6,204	6,920	6,494