

Judicial Districts.—Of the 157 Judicial Districts in 1945, 137 reported juvenile offences, 13 made 'nil' reports and 7 failed to report at all.

The reporting area for 1945, as for earlier years, was particularly representative of the larger urban centres, and included 106 of the 190 cities and towns in Canada with populations of 4,000 or over. Fifty-three cities not reporting are in the Province of Quebec. There is no legislation covering the establishment of juvenile courts for the whole of this Province, but Social Welfare Courts may be established in centres of 25,000 population or over.

The numbers of cities and towns of 4,000 population or over reporting juvenile cases in the years 1941 to 1945 were 64, 82, 88, 101 and 106, respectively.

Subsection 1.—Total Juvenile Offences

The terms 'indictable and non-indictable' are applied only to offences of adults, similar offences committed by juveniles are termed 'major' offences and 'minor' offences, respectively.

Delinquents Brought Before the Courts.—The number of juvenile delinquents brought before the courts in Canada during 1945 was 9,756, a decrease of 15.6 p.c. from the total of 11,554 cases tried during 1944. Juveniles charged with major offences showed a decrease from 7,292 in 1944 to 6,121 in 1945, or 16.1 p.c.; a total of 3,635 juveniles charged with minor offences were brought before the courts during 1945, as compared with 4,262 during 1944, a decrease of 14.7 p.c.

Table 1 shows the number of cases brought before the courts, by provinces, from 1941 to 1945. In 1945, a decrease was apparent in each of the provinces, except Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, as compared with the previous year.

1.—Juvenile Offenders Brought Before the Courts, by Provinces, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1941-45

Province	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	Percentage Change, 1944-45
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
Prince Edward Island.....	75	103	89	109	118	+8.3
Nova Scotia.....	516	555	715	689	598	-13.2
New Brunswick.....	438	352	430	475	341	-28.2
Quebec.....	4,074	4,284	3,373	2,621	2,390	-8.8
Ontario.....	4,910	5,835	5,573	5,388	4,190	-22.2
Manitoba.....	469	649	467	445	366	-17.8
Saskatchewan.....	322	483	429	437	339	-22.4
Alberta.....	753	908	493	599	563	-6.0
British Columbia.....	580	633	656	791	851	+7.6
Totals.....	12,137	13,802	12,225	11,554	9,756	-15.6

The peak in delinquency among girls was reached in 1943, a year later than for boys, followed by a decline in numbers for both sexes. The ratio between boys and girls charged in court shows a gradual up-grading for the girls, though the actual number of girls appearing in court in 1945 was the lowest since 1940.