

1941 to 1945 are summarized under sixteen principal headings in the following table. The most frequent violations among the boys in 1945 were theft (43·8 p.c.); burglary, breaking and entering (26·6 p.c.) the latter being a form of misdemeanor which offers more risk and excitement than any others; and malicious damage to property which includes arson (16·6 p.c.). The infractions against the law most prevalent among girls were theft (52·1 p.c.); offences against public morals (11·2 p.c.); and burglary, breaking and entering (11·2 p.c.).

**6.—Convictions of Juveniles for Major Offences, by Type and Sex, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1941-45**

Offence	1941		1942		1943		1944		1945	
	Males	Fe-males	Males	Fe-males	Males	Fe-males	Males	Fe-males	Males	Fe-males
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Manslaughter and murder.....	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
Rape, carnal knowledge and incest....	6	3	5	“	1	“	5	“	13	1
Indecent assault.....	43	Nil	30	“	46	“	38	“	30	Nil
Aggravated assault and wounding....	54	5	22	1	24	4	53	3	25	2
Common assault.....	80	13	94	13	95	23	71	9	103	12
Endangering life on railway.....	54	Nil	38	Nil	63	Nil	26	Nil	30	Nil
Other offences against the person.....	2	3	2	“	1	“	3	4	1	1
Burglary, breaking and entering.....	1,378	18	1,468	29	1,509	23	1,675	27	1,467	27
Robbery.....	11	Nil	39	Nil	18	Nil	37	Nil	15	4
Theft and receiving stolen goods.....	3,289	150	3,863	160	3,462	178	3,218	162	2,810	134
Embezzlement, false pretences and fraud.....	20	8	16	Nil	17	1	11	2	15	5
Arson.....	32	2	20	1	23	Nil	35	2	19	Nil
Wilful damage to property.....	907	6	978	16	839	30	969	16	895	19
Forgery and offences against currency.....	13	1	8	3	20	1	18	4	23	6
Immorality.....	19	42	25	28	16	47	21	48	23	26
Various other offences.....	39	6	54	6	40	12	62	7	47	5
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>5,947</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>6,663</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>6,175</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>6,245</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>5,516</b>	<b>242</b>

As children become older the percentage of major offences tends to increase. Generally speaking, boys of 8 years of age commit more than double the number of offences as the 7 year-olds and those of 9 years twice as many as the 8 year-olds. Over the 24-year period 1922-45, 58 p.c. of the major offences were committed by boys of 13, 14 and 15 years of age, and the latter age was responsible, on an average, for 22 p.c. of the major offences. In 1945 the number of offenders was lower for all ages than that of the previous two years except at the age of 15 years. (See Table 7.)

Girls of the 13 to 15 age group were answerable, on an average, for 64 p.c. and those of 15 years for 27·6 p.c. of the total female convictions.

**Education and Delinquency.**—In 1945, 64 p.c. of the convictions for major offences were for offences committed by children of 13, 14 and 15 years of age. Presuming that the age of entering school is six years, 77 p.c. of the above group were one or more years behind in school work, while of all the children convicted 72 p.c. were backward. This retardation may be due to other factors besides dullness, such as illness, change of residence, etc.

In only 3 p.c. of the total convictions were the children ahead of the normal rating in the school and only 8 p.c. had attended high school.