

In Table 3 the rates per 100,000 population show the proportions of the offences committed by young offenders in three age groups.

3.—Convictions of Young Offenders for Indictable Offences, by Age Groups, Years Ended Sept. 30, 1945-47

NOTE.—Population figures used are official estimates in each age group.

Year	Ages of Offenders								
	16-18 years			19-20 years			21-24 years inclusive		
	Number of Convictions	Rate per 100,000 Population	Percentage Change from Preceding Year	Number of Convictions	Rate per 100,000 Population	Percentage Change from Preceding Year	Number of Convictions	Rate per 100,000 Population	Percentage Change from Preceding Year
1945...	6,958	1,064	-7.1	3,732	842	-5.3	6,025	686	+2.4
1946...	6,674	1,033	-4.1	4,305	983	+15.4	7,208	823	+19.6
1947....	5,709	889	-14.5	3,789	867	-12.0	7,586	861	+5.2

PART III.—JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Section 1.—Causes and Court Treatment of Juvenile Delinquency

Information on the causes and court treatment of juvenile delinquency is given at pp. 247-248 of the 1947 Year Book.

Section 2.—Juvenile Delinquency Statistics

The Juvenile Delinquents Act defines a child as "any boy or girl apparently or actually under the age of 16 years". Provision is made, however, by which the Governor in Council may proclaim that in a Province the definition of a child be a "person under the age of 18 years" This has been done in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec. For uniformity the figures relating to juveniles compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics refer to the younger ages of under 16 years only.

The "Annual Report of Criminal and Other Offences" published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics deals primarily with delinquency cases disposed of by the courts. The information it gives serves to further the program of the treatment of young offenders. The fact that juvenile court statistics furnish the most comprehensive figures collected on a country-wide basis makes it important that the possibilities and limitations of these statistics be understood.

In the first place, it is impossible for any report to give a complete picture of juvenile delinquency, as many instances of minor offences are not detected, while others are settled by the police, social agencies, or school authorities without the necessity of apprehending the child. This is particularly true in rural districts where the courts are not readily accessible.

Secondly, the number of cases brought before the courts is influenced by such factors as the personnel and facilities of the court, and community interest in, and understanding of, the function of a juvenile court. Furthermore, it must be