

Subsection 2.—Young Adult Offenders (16-24 Years)

Young men and women from 16 to 24 years of age each year form about 43.0 p.c. of the criminal population who commit indictable offences but they comprise less than 19.5 p.c. of the total population 16 years of age or over. As this age group includes some of the most daring offenders who may be already experienced criminals as well as first offenders likely to be turned from crime by further education and training, it seems worth while to give consideration to offenders in this group as distinct from offenders in the older age groups.

Of the young offenders in 1955, 70.7 p.c. were tried in three provinces—Ontario 37.9 p.c., Quebec 22.4 p.c., and British Columbia 10.4 p.c.; 48.6 p.c. of them were still under 20 years of age.

11.—Young Adult Offenders by Age Group, Sex and Province 1954 and 1955

Age Group and Sex	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Yukon and N.W.T.	Canada
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1954												
16 - 17 years.....M.	60	10	120	53	659	905	101	111	207	381	—	2,607
F.	—	—	6	4	44	52	23	3	15	15	—	162
18 - 19 ".....M.	44	11	150	69	506	1,075	148	152	232	251	6	2,644
F.	6	—	6	2	15	51	15	7	18	14	—	134
20 - 24 ".....M.	137	36	352	144	1,301	2,431	344	289	547	685	13	6,279
F.	6	3	8	6	100	138	37	6	35	41	1	381
Totals, 1954.....	253	60	642	278	2,625	4,652	668	568	1,054	1,387	20	12,207
1955												
16 - 17 years.....M.	53	16	130	55	629	966	98	106	173	348	—	2,574
F.	4	1	8	4	36	56	32	7	9	12	—	169
18 - 19 ".....M.	45	14	154	77	511	1,079	140	142	235	262	—	2,659
F.	3	1	8	1	20	73	14	5	14	16	—	155
20 - 24 ".....M.	154	21	368	141	1,294	2,045	297	256	472	527	1	5,576
F.	9	1	6	3	77	119	31	8	22	27	—	303
Totals, 1955.....	268	54	674	281	2,567	4,338	612	524	925	1,192	1	11,436

In 1955, 12 of the 40 men found guilty of manslaughter and 24 of the 47 convicted of rape were under 25 years of age; 62.2 p.c. of the men found guilty of burglary and robbery were in that group as well as 46.6 p.c. of those convicted of offences against property without violence, which includes all thefts, 47.6 p.c. of those who maliciously damaged property, 40.5 p.c. of those found carrying offensive weapons and 57.5 p.c. of the prison escapees.

There were 1,705 women offenders in 1955, 627 of them under 25 years of age; nearly half (310) of the young offenders were guilty of theft and receiving stolen goods. Of the 100 women convicted under the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, 30 were in the young adult group as were 33 of the 65 found guilty of forgery and uttering; 17 of the 22 female prison escapees were also young women.