

interest in and understanding of the function of a juvenile court, and by variations in the policies of the courts in the disposition of cases. As more courts are established the additional returns may exaggerate an apparent increase in delinquency or may underestimate a decrease. In some communities the juvenile court is the only available agency to provide services to children; in others there are well established agencies serving children of which the juvenile court is only one.

It should be noted, too, that the total figures do not represent the actual number of children charged and found guilty but rather tend to exaggerate them, for a child referred to the court two or more times during the year for different offences is counted as a different case each time. Neither do the figures represent the number of offences committed by offenders, as when a child is charged with more than one delinquency at a hearing only the most serious offence is counted.

Reports of juvenile delinquents were received in 1955 from 157 of the 169 judicial districts. Twelve of these had no cases to report. Separate reports were received in 1955 from 159 incorporated urban centres of 4,000 population or more.

Juveniles Before the Courts.—The number of cases of juveniles brought before the courts in 1955 was 8,187, an increase of 5.6 p.c. over 1954. Newfoundland and Alberta showed the greatest percentage increases among the provinces.

23.—Juveniles brought before the Courts by Province 1951-55

Province or Territory	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Percentage Change, 1954-55
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
Newfoundland.....	194	223	207	229	269	+17.5
Prince Edward Island.....	55	29	37	43	31	-27.9
Nova Scotia.....	554	425	594	650	576	-11.4
New Brunswick.....	275	274	247	235	210	-10.6
Quebec.....	1,348	965	1,306	1,229	1,323	+ 7.6
Ontario.....	3,441	3,370	3,531	3,381	3,605	+ 6.6
Manitoba.....	404	454	405	422	455	+ 7.8
Saskatchewan.....	71	84	54	62	58	- 6.5
Alberta.....	285	368	421	463	602	+30.0
British Columbia.....	893	1,021	1,023	1,037	1,058	+ 2.0
Yukon Territory.....	1	—	4	—	—	—
Northwest Territories.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada.....	7,521	7,213	7,829	7,751	8,187	+ 5.6

24.—Percentage Change in the Number of Boys and Girls brought before the Courts 1946-55

Year	Percentage Change from Preceding Year			Percentage Change from 1945		
	Boys' Cases	Girls' Cases	All Cases	Boys' Cases	Girls' Cases	All Cases
1946.....	-11.4	- 5.8	-10.8	-11.4	- 5.8	-10.8
1947.....	- 3.3	-17.3	- 5.1	-14.4	-22.0	-15.3
1948.....	- 5.1	- 1.3	- 4.7	-18.7	-23.1	-19.3
1949.....	- 9.0	-24.0	-10.7	-26.0	-41.6	-27.9
1950.....	+ 2.9	+11.8	+ 3.8	-23.8	-34.7	-25.1
1951 ¹	+ 3.9	- 5.3	+ 3.0	-20.9	-38.1	-22.9
1952.....	- 5.0	+ 4.5	- 4.1	-24.8	-35.4	-26.1
1953.....	+ 8.3	+11.0	+ 8.5	-18.6	-28.3	-19.8
1954.....	- 0.6	- 4.2	- 1.0	-19.1	-31.3	-20.6
1955.....	+ 3.3	+25.9	+ 5.6	-16.4	-13.5	-16.1

¹ Newfoundland included from 1951.