

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 (*see* p. 326). 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 1957 from 150 of the 169 judicial districts. Nineteen of these had no cases to report. Separate reports were received in 1957 from 173 incorporated urban centres of 4,000 or more population.

**Juveniles brought before the Courts.**—The number of juveniles brought before the courts in 1957 was 11,928, an increase of 15.6 p.c. over 1956. Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia showed the greatest percentage increases among the provinces.

**23.—Juveniles brought before the Courts, by Province, 1953-57**

Province or Territory	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Percentage Change, 1956-57
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
Newfoundland.....	207	229	269	368	319	-13.3
Prince Edward Island.....	37	43	31	48	36	-25.0
Nova Scotia.....	594	650	576	524	581	+10.9
New Brunswick.....	247	235	210	319	341	+ 6.9
Quebec.....	1,306	1,229	1,323	1,634	2,436	+49.1
Ontario.....	3,531	3,381	3,605	4,462	4,861	+ 8.9
Manitoba.....	405	422	455	676	792	+17.2
Saskatchewan.....	54	62	58	47	29	-38.3
Alberta.....	421	463	602	756	824	+ 8.9
British Columbia.....	1,023	1,037	1,058	1,475	1,705	+15.6
Yukon Territory.....	4	—	—	1	—	-100.0
Northwest Territories.....	—	—	—	5	4	-20.0
<b>Canada.....</b>	<b>7,829</b>	<b>7,751</b>	<b>8,187</b>	<b>10,315</b>	<b>11,928</b>	<b>+15.6</b>

**24.—Percentage Change in the Number of Boys and Girls brought before the Courts, 1948-57**

Year	Percentage Change from Preceding Year			Percentage Change from 1947		
	Boys' Cases	Girls' Cases	All Cases	Boys' Cases	Girls' Cases	All Cases
1948.....	- 5.1	- 1.3	- 4.7	- 5.1	- 1.4	- 4.7
1949.....	- 9.0	-24.0	-10.7	-13.6	-25.1	-14.9
1950.....	+ 2.9	+11.8	+ 3.8	-11.1	-16.3	-11.6
1951 <sup>1</sup> .....	+ 3.9	- 5.3	+ 3.0	- 7.6	-20.7	- 9.0
1952.....	- 5.0	+ 4.5	- 4.1	-12.2	-17.2	-12.7
1953.....	+ 8.3	+11.0	+ 8.5	- 4.9	- 8.1	- 5.3
1954.....	- 0.6	- 4.2	- 1.0	- 5.5	-12.0	- 6.2
1955.....	+ 3.3	+25.9	+ 5.6	- 2.4	+10.9	- 1.0
1956.....	+26.9	+19.4	+26.0	+23.9	+32.3	+24.8
1957.....	+14.9	+21.0	+15.6	+42.4	+60.1	+44.3

<sup>1</sup> Newfoundland included from 1951.