

In 1972 there were 55,541 adults charged with 95,131 indictable offences of whom 45,614 were found guilty of 77,650 offences (see Table 2.5). All data for 1971 and 1972 exclude returns for Quebec and Alberta. It should be noted that figures given in Tables 2.5 - 2.8 and 2.11 are based on information received through the provincial judicial systems and consequently cannot be compared with data reported by police under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (Tables 2.2 - 2.4) which include these two provinces.

Table 2.6 classifies indictable offences by type of offence for 1971 and 1972. Class I covers offences against the person and in 1972, 4,693 males and 316 females were convicted in this category, mostly for assaults of various kinds. Classes II to IV deal with offences against property. Thefts predominate among the offences in these classes, and breaking and entering, extortion and robbery — serious crimes which involve acts of violence — are the next most numerous. Class V deals with offences relating to currency and Class VI with miscellaneous offences; among the latter, the most numerous convictions are for offences connected with gaming, betting and lotteries. In 1972 there were 2,753 men and 281 women convicted under federal statutes of whom 2,249 men and 228 women were offenders under the Narcotic Control Act.

The number of female offenders convicted of indictable offences decreased from 7,735 in 1971 to 7,283 in 1972 with Ontario and Newfoundland accounting for the difference. The ratio of female offenders to total persons convicted decreased from 13.9% in 1971 to 13.3% in 1972 for Newfoundland and from 17.2% in 1971 to 16.4% in 1972 for Ontario. Table 2.7 summarizes the most serious court sentences given for indictable offences and Table 2.8 shows the method of trial and disposition of cases.

Two kinds of sentences — probation and commitment to an institution — maintain, for a certain period of time, a relationship between the person dealt with by the court and the legal institutions of a community. There are several types of institutions to which a person can be committed, such as penitentiaries, reformatories, jails and industrial farms. Theoretically, every institution has a specific purpose which is supposed to be taken into account when arriving at a legal decision. In practice, however, the availability of an institution in a given community is a factor in determining the decision rendered by the court.

Convictions for summary conviction offences. Offences punishable on summary conviction under the criminal code or under the provincial summary conviction acts as the case may be are triable by magistrates and justices of the peace. Data relating to these offences are based on convictions; no information is available on either the number of persons involved in these offences or the number of charges (see Table 2.9).

Appeals. Appeal is an important safeguard in Canada's legal system. The conviction or the sentence pronounced by a judge of a first instance court may be appealed on the grounds that the verdict was unreasonable, that there was a wrong decision on some question of law or that there was a miscarriage of justice. In 1972 there were 3,123 appeals in indictable cases disposed of by the courts, of which 290 were Crown appeals and 2,833 appeals of the accused. Of the Crown appeals, 76 were from acquittal and 214 from sentence. Appeals in summary conviction cases disposed of by the courts numbered 2,388 in 1972. Of these, 610 were appeals of the informant and 1,778 appeals of the accused. The informant appeals comprised 497 from acquittal and 113 from sentence, and appeals of the accused comprised 1,389 from conviction and 389 from sentence.

Juvenile delinquents

Juvenile delinquent, as defined in the Juvenile Delinquents Act, means any child who violates any provision of the criminal code or of any federal or provincial statute, or of any by-law or ordinance of any municipality, or who is guilty of sexual immorality or any similar form of vice, or who is liable by reason of any

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