

either robbery or break and enter. The median sentence length on admission to provincial facilities in 1982-83 was 26 days; the corresponding sentence length for inmates admitted to federal penitentiaries was three and one-half years. The average provincial probationer is 21 years of age and is serving a probation order of 11 months.

Of total sentenced admissions (131,291) to provincial facilities during 1982-83, 69% were admitted under a criminal code offence, including drinking and driving, 21% under a provincial statute, 5% under a municipal bylaw, and the remaining 4% under a federal statute, usually drug-related. Specifically, fine defaulters accounted for one-third of all admissions to provincial custody and drinking and driving offenders accounted for 17% of total sentenced admissions (Chart 20.2).

At the federal level, 50% of all warrant of committal admissions were for robbery, break and enter, and theft. Murder, attempted murder and manslaughter offences accounted for 10%, while sexual offences (including rape) accounted for 8% (Chart 20.3).

## 20.8 Victims of crime

In recent years, criminal justice agencies and private sector groups have taken a number of initiatives for the victims of crime. Victims' services have been established across the country by both governments and private agencies. In 1981 a federal-provincial task force examined the needs of victims of crime and considered action which could be taken to improve methods of assistance to them. In 1982, the solicitor general's department with the assistance of Statistics Canada conducted a victimization survey in seven major urban centres. This survey provides information on the victims of certain crimes, the risks and impact of victimization, the extent and distribution of reported and unreported crime, and public awareness of and participation in crime compensation and crime prevention programs.

### 20.8.1 Criminal injuries compensation

Criminal injuries compensation is related to two major areas of activity, the administration of justice and social security. From a justice perspective, it represents development in recent efforts to improve the criminal justice system by compensating innocent victims of crime. From a social security point of view, it forms part of a large network of programs to ensure Canadian residents of income security and necessary social services regardless of socio-economic status.

In each province and territory except Prince Edward Island, there is a program to compensate for injury or death as a result of: some specified or defined crime committed by another person; an effort to prevent crime; or an effort to arrest an offender or suspected offender. Criminal injuries

compensation legislation has been in effect in Newfoundland, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta from the late 1960s, and in other provinces from the early 1970s. Yukon and Northwest Territories have had legislation from the mid-1970s. Nova Scotia also had legislation from that time, but it went into force in May 1981. The federal department of justice started sharing costs of criminal injuries compensation programs in 1973.

Administration of criminal injuries compensation programs differs from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. For example, while all programs cover compensation for certain offences specified in the federal-provincial cost sharing agreement, such as homicide, assault and robbery, a jurisdiction may also compensate for other offences, such as abduction, and impaired or dangerous driving.

Compensation may be in lump sum awards, periodic awards or a combination of both. There are variations in the maximum amounts payable. As a general rule, no compensation is paid for property damage. Table 20.13 shows the number of applications received, their disposition, and the amount of compensation paid.

## 20.9 Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics is the focal point of a federal-provincial initiative dedicated to national statistics and information on the justice system in Canada. Established in Statistics Canada in 1981, the centre is responsible for producing information on the extent and nature of reported crime and the administration of criminal, civil and administrative justice in Canada.

This information is designed to serve governments in the development, operation and evaluation of justice policies and programs, as well as to contribute to public understanding of how the justice system operates and of its cost. The centre also provides assistance to federal and provincial agencies in developing information systems that can serve both local and national needs.

Reflecting these two responsibilities, the centre has two main operational arms, one dedicated to the development and operation of statistical programs, the other designed to provide technical assistance to individual jurisdictions.

The centre operates under the responsibility and authority of Statistics Canada, but its programs and priorities are established in conjunction with federal, provincial and territorial departments and agencies responsible for the administration of justice, represented through a number of formal committees.

### 20.9.1 Statistics and information programs

The centre's statistical programs provide information on the number and nature of cases dealt with by each