

extent of these services, especially in civil matters, differs by jurisdiction.

## 20.4 Law enforcement

### 20.4.1 Crime

Over the six-year period 1980-85, the number of offences increased 1.2% from 2,692,159 to 2,724,308.

Criminal Code offences, accounting for about three-quarters of all offences, grew by 6.3% between 1980 and 1985. They can be broken down into three categories: crimes of violence, property crimes and other criminal code offences. According to 1985 data, property crimes were about seven times as numerous as crimes of violence. Between 1980 and 1985 property crimes increased 5.6% and crimes of violence 21.8%.

Federal statute offences, which accounted for about 3.5% of total offences, declined by 19.8% between 1980 and 1985. Federal statute drug offences declined by 22.9% during the same time period.

**Criminal Code traffic statistics.** In 1985, impaired driving offences, which includes driving while impaired and failing or refusing to provide a

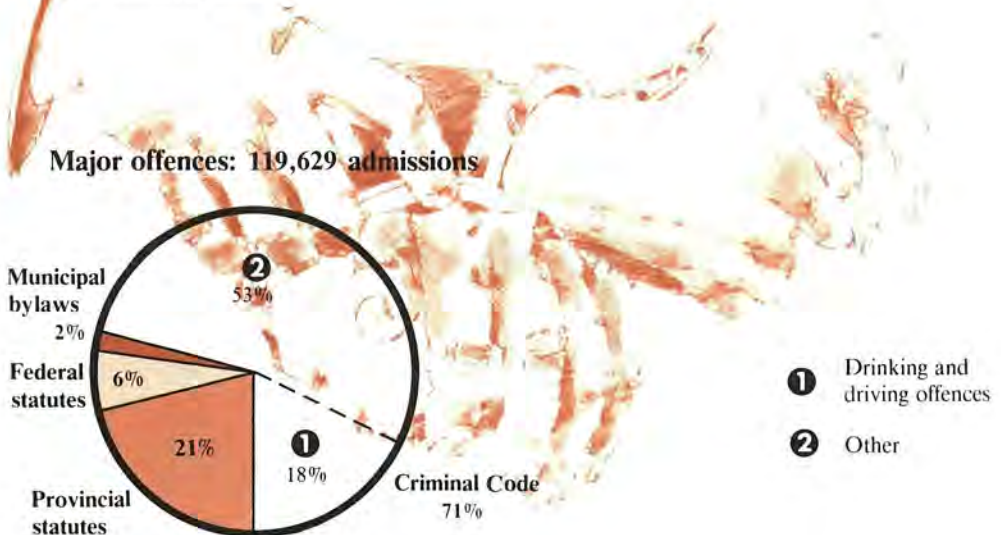
breath sample, accounted for 62% of the almost 250,000 Criminal Code traffic offences, while failing to stop or remain at the scene of an accident offences comprised an additional 35%. The remaining 3% were for criminal negligence, dangerous driving and driving while disqualified offences. Over the five-year period 1981-85, the number of Criminal Code traffic offences declined by 14%. Males accounted for 93% of persons charged with Criminal Code traffic offences in 1985. For additional information see Table 20.2.

### 20.4.2 Homicide

Homicide is a term used to designate the three Criminal Code offences of murder (prior to July 26, 1976, capital and non-capital murder), manslaughter and infanticide. In the 10-year period 1976-85, 6,633 persons were victims of homicide in Canada. This represents a yearly average of 663 deaths or an average annual rate of 2.8 homicide victims per 100,000 population. As murders account for an average of 90% of all homicide offences in any year, the murder and total homicide patterns from 1976 to 1985 are similar. Volatile yearly fluctuations in manslaughter offences and rates during this 10-year

Chart 20.2

**Sentenced admissions to provincial custody,<sup>(1)</sup> by major offence, 1985-86**



(1) Includes offenders who are subsequently admitted to federal custody after a 30-day appeal period.