



Department of Justice  
Canada

Ministère de la Justice  
Canada

# **PROFILE AND PROJECTION OF DRUG OFFENCES IN CANADA**

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## **Highlights**

- From 1977 to 1998, the number of adults charged with a drug offence decreased by 28%, from 53,138 adults charged in 1977 to 38,198 adults charged in 1998. However, the trend has been levelling in the last few years.
- In terms of types of drugs, there had been a large decrease in the number of adults charged with cannabis offences and a large increase in the number of adults charged with cocaine offences during the 1980s. However, all types of drug recorded a levelling trend in the last few years.
- In terms of nature of offence, drug possession now accounts for 55% of all adults charged with drug offences. The remaining 45% involve trafficking, importation, and cultivation of drugs. The proportion of drug possession decreased rapidly during the 1980s. However, the proportion has remained rather stable in the last few years.
- A comparison between the number of adults charged with drug offences and the number of drug cases handled in provincial criminal courts reveals that for every 100 adults charged, about 85 cases end up in courts. However, there are wide variations among different jurisdictions.
- Based on the extrapolation method of projection selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase 6% in the next five years, increasing from 38,198 in 1998 to 40,660 in 2003.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

This is an update of that project. There are be two products in the project: a national report and a series of jurisdictional reports, one for each jurisdiction. The reports provide information on historical profile of the trend of drug offences in the past 20 years plus a five-year projection of the trend into the future.

## **Data Sources**

The profiles and projections were based on police reported data collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The period of data used was from 1977 to 1998, which are the latest data available. As the objective is to produce indicators of workload in drug prosecutions, data on the number of adults formally charged by the police are be used.

These data were collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) which represents the crime data of every police force in Canada. The data from this survey are the most current and reliable data on drug offences that are available in Canada today. [At the request of the Agent Affairs Unit, the number of drug offences here include only those under the Narcotic Control Act (NCA), excluding those under the Food and Drugs Act (FDA).]

In addition to police data, we look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from British Columbia, Manitoba and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Tables 1 and 2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged with cannabis offences accounted for almost two-thirds (64%) of all drug offences in 1998, followed by cocaine (26%).

Heroin accounted for only 3% while miscellaneous drugs accounted for the remaining 7%.

Heroin offences decreased from over 1,000 adults charged in the late 1970s to around 500 in the 1980s. The total number of adults charged returned to over 1,000 in the 1990s but has been on a levelling trend in the last few years.

Cocaine offences increased rapidly from below 800 adults charged in the late 1970s to over 12,000 in 1989, a fifteen-fold increase. During the 1990s, the total number of adults charged decreased slightly and has been on a levelling trend in the last few years.

Cannabis offences decreased from almost 50,000 adults charged in the late 1970s to less than 25,000 in 1991. Since then, the number of adults charged has stayed around 24,000 and has also been on a levelling trend.

Miscellaneous drug offences stayed at below 2,000 adults charged between 1977 and 1990. The total number increased rapidly in 1991 and 1992 but has since dropped slightly. However, there has been a moderate upward trend in the last few years.

In terms of nature of offence, drug possession accounted for more than half (55%) of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998; drug trafficking accounted for 34%; cultivation of cannabis accounted for 9%; drug importation accounted for the remaining 2%.

The number of adults charged with drug possession dropped by more than half between 1977 to 1991, from about 45,000 in 1977 to 23,000 in 1991. Since then, the decrease has slowed down. By 1998, the total was 21,200. Drug possession accounted for 85% of all drug offences in 1977 but only 55% in 1998.

In contrast, the number of adults charged with trafficking, importation, and cultivation of drugs increased rapidly from 8,000 in late 1970s to 17,000 in early 1990s. Since then, the trend has been levelling off.

As a whole, the total number of adults charged with drug offences decreased from about 55,000 in the early 1980s to less than 40,000 in the last few years. The trend has generally been levelling.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

### **Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data (Table 3)**

The assumption in comparing the number of adults charged by the police and the number of cases handled by provincial criminal courts is that a small proportion of the offenders charged may not actually appear before the courts for various reasons such as diversion.

If this is the case, then the number of drug cases in courts should be slightly below the number of adults charged.

Two years of provincial criminal court data were used in the comparison (1996/97 and 1997/98). In actual case, the number of cases in 1996/97 is almost the same as the number of adults charged as the ratio between the two number is 1.01 for Canada as a whole. Note that the number can be higher than 1 because the time of appearance before the courts is not the same as the time of charging by the police.

In addition, the ratio varies by jurisdiction, ranging from 0.74 in Saskatchewan to 1.08 in Quebec. The high ratio in Yukon is the result of the small number of cases.

However, the result for 1997/98 is quite different. The ratios are mostly significantly lower than in 1996/97. The average for Canada is only 0.68 meaning that for every 100 adults charged by the police, only 68 cases were handled by the provincial criminal courts. The reason of these lower ratios is not known.

The conclusion is that for every 100 adults charged by the police, the average number of court cases is about 85. However, the actual number may vary widely from about 40 to 100, depending on the jurisdiction in question.

### **Methods of Projection**

When we want to make projections for future trends in drug offences, we can select from one of three groups of projection methods: (1) subjective method, (2) econometric method, or (3) extrapolation method.

The first group is the subjective method. It involves an estimation of future trends by experts in the related area, for example, including police officers, litigators, court administrators. They are first provided with past levels of drug offences and are then asked to make predictions of future levels based on their knowledge of the system. The results are then reviewed and an average projection is worked out from those results.

The second group is the econometric method. It involves a mathematical projection using the multiple regression technique. The future trends of drug offences can be calculated based on a wide range of demographic, social and economic factors.

Demographic factors can include:

- the number of young persons and the number of single persons (as the offenders are mostly young and single)
- the number of separated and divorced persons and the number of lone parent households (as persons in broken families may use drugs more often)

Social and criminal justice factors can include:

- the unemployment rate (as unemployed persons may involve in drugs more often)
- the number of police officers and the amount of police expenditure (as these may cause an increase in enforcement)
- the number of robberies and thefts (as drug offences may use these to finance their drug habit)

Economic factors can include:

- Consumer Price Index (as the use of drugs may correlate with inflation)
- interest rates, average personal income, average disposable income and average earnings per hour (as the use of drugs may correlate with prosperity)
- exchange rates relative to the U.S. (as the Canadian drug market is associated with the U.S. market)

The third group is the extrapolation method. It involves mathematical projections purely based on the trend in the past such as using moving averages and exponential smoothing techniques on past data.

The econometric method may appear the most sophisticated method. However, it depends on the availability of data for many factors, both past and future. For example, you have to make separate projections of the change in prices, unemployment, demographic composition, expenditure in justice before you can make the projection of drug offences. In contrast, the extrapolation method requires a lot less data and has also proved to be a reliable method of projection in many past studies, including those in justice areas. Therefore, this is used most widely of all three methods and this method is chosen in the present project.

The method, then, is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The statistical method chosen is called Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection. The method involves calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

### **Accuracy of Previous Projection**

When the projection exercise was performed three years ago, the projected number of adults charged by the police for 1996-1998 were 37,538, 36,427 and 35,315. The actual numbers reported by the police were 38,400, 35,799 and 38,383. Note that these numbers are slightly higher than those shown in the tables as they include those charged

under the Food and Drugs Act. Thus, the variances between the actual numbers and the projected numbers are 2.2% in 1996, 1.8% in 1997, and 7.5% in 1998. Past research in projections show that the variance after three years of projection normally exceeds 10%. Therefore, it is concluded that the projections done in the previous exercise can be judged as highly accurate.

#### **Results of the Projection (Table 4)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

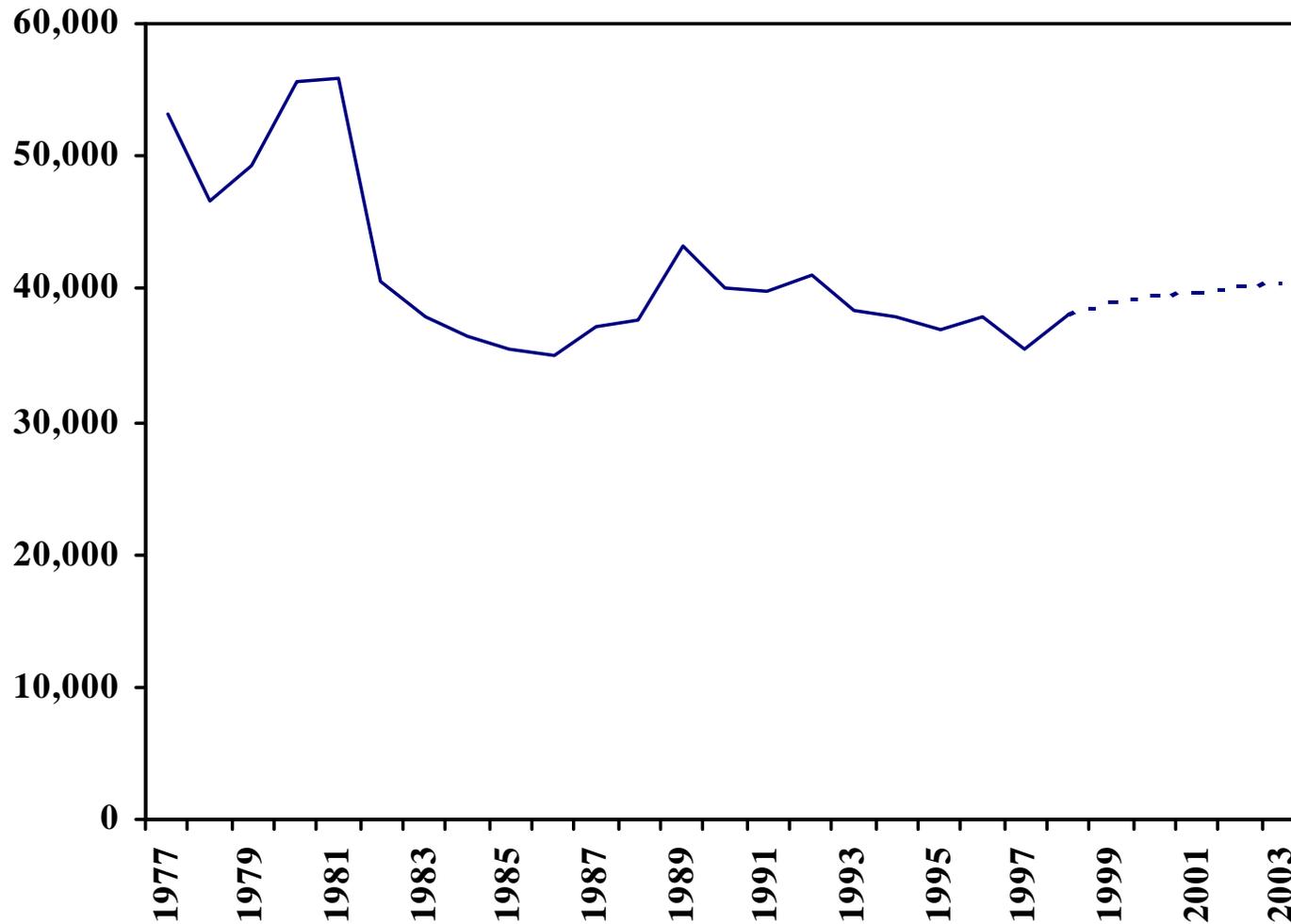
The extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police will increase slightly in the next five years, by about 1% per year. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be about 6%, from 38,198 adults charged in 1998 to 40,660 in 2003. However, the increase varies widely among jurisdictions. Among the 10 provinces, the increases range from 36% in Prince Edward Island to 2% in Ontario.

It should be kept in mind, however, that the higher the number of adults charged, the more reliable the projection is. Smaller numbers result in higher volatility, thereby making the trends more difficult to predict accurately. For that reason, the actual levels in smaller jurisdictions will be more likely to be affected by changes in charging or reporting. Therefore, projections for Canada and the larger jurisdictions are more likely to be accurate than smaller jurisdictions.

#### **The use of this information**

The purpose of the profile and projections reports is to inform discussions concerning the level of drug offences in different jurisdictions and whether they will increase or decrease and to what extent. While we can tell the amount of drug activity that has occurred over the past two decades, we are less certain as to the exact nature of change which may occur in the future, particularly in view of unanticipated influences such as changes in government policy or legislation, enforcement practices or other social factors. Therefore, it is important to use the mathematical projections in conjunction with the experience and knowledge of people in the field that deal with these issues daily in order to determine the course that drug offences will take during the immediate future.

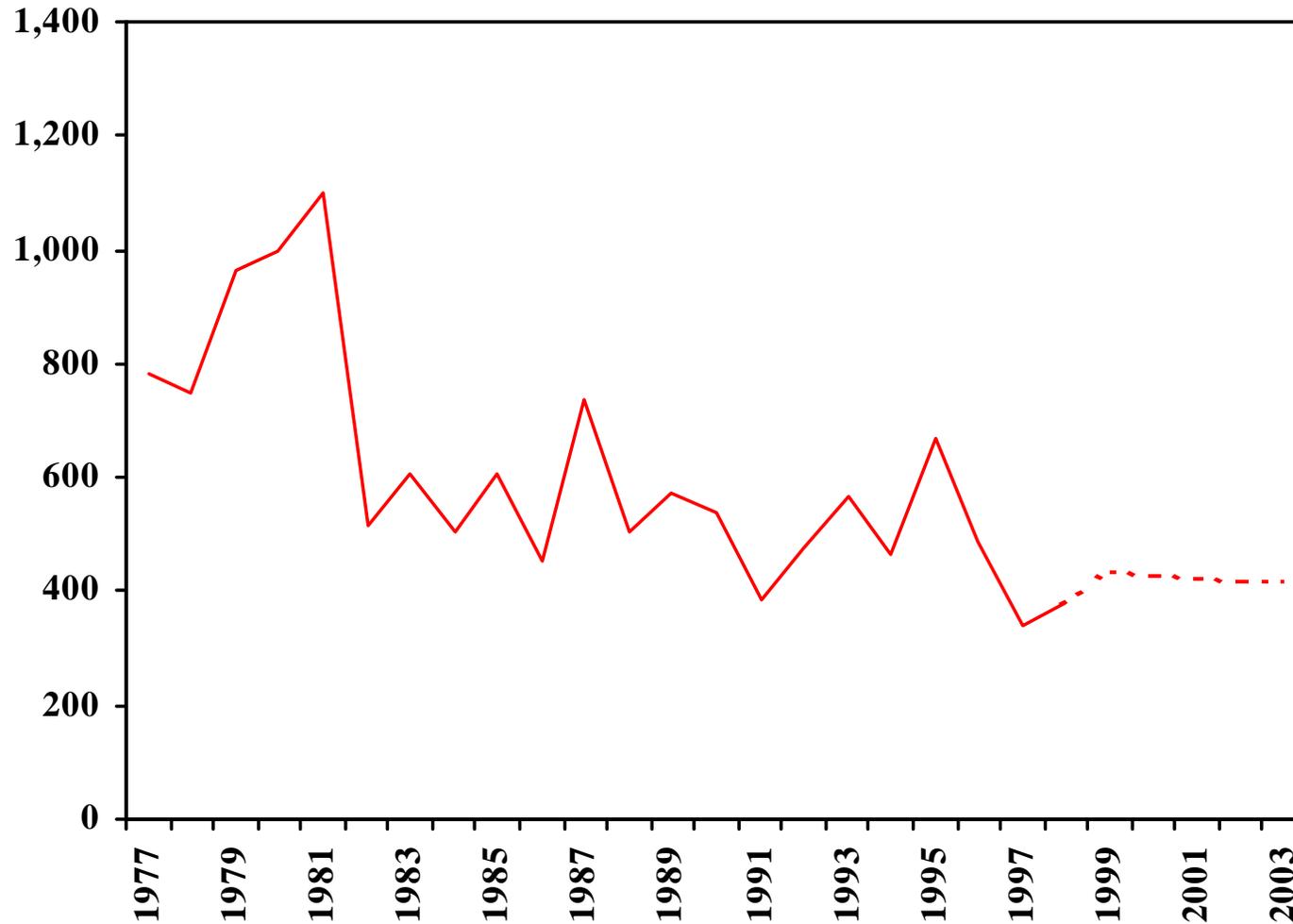
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Canada, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

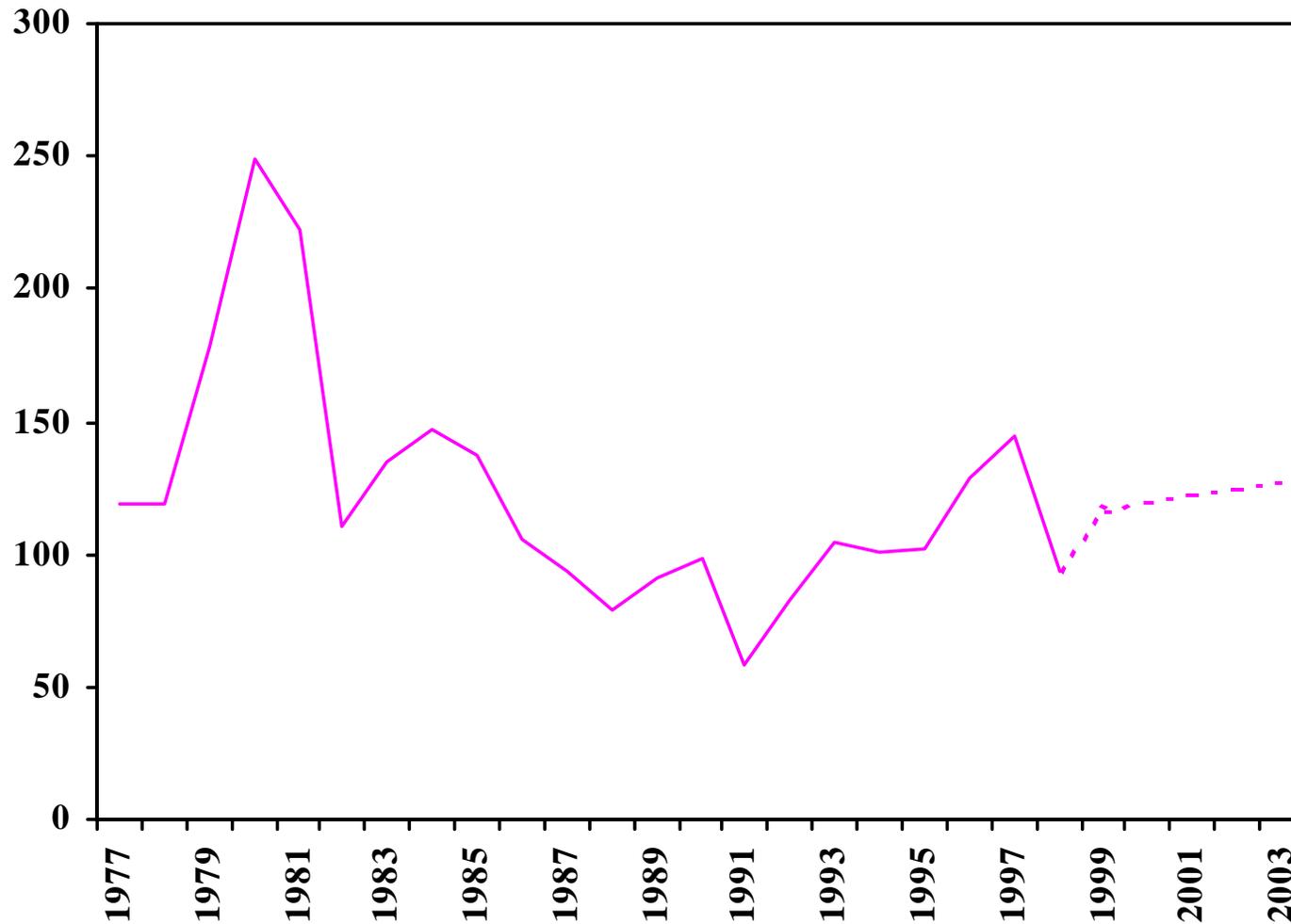
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Newfoundland, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

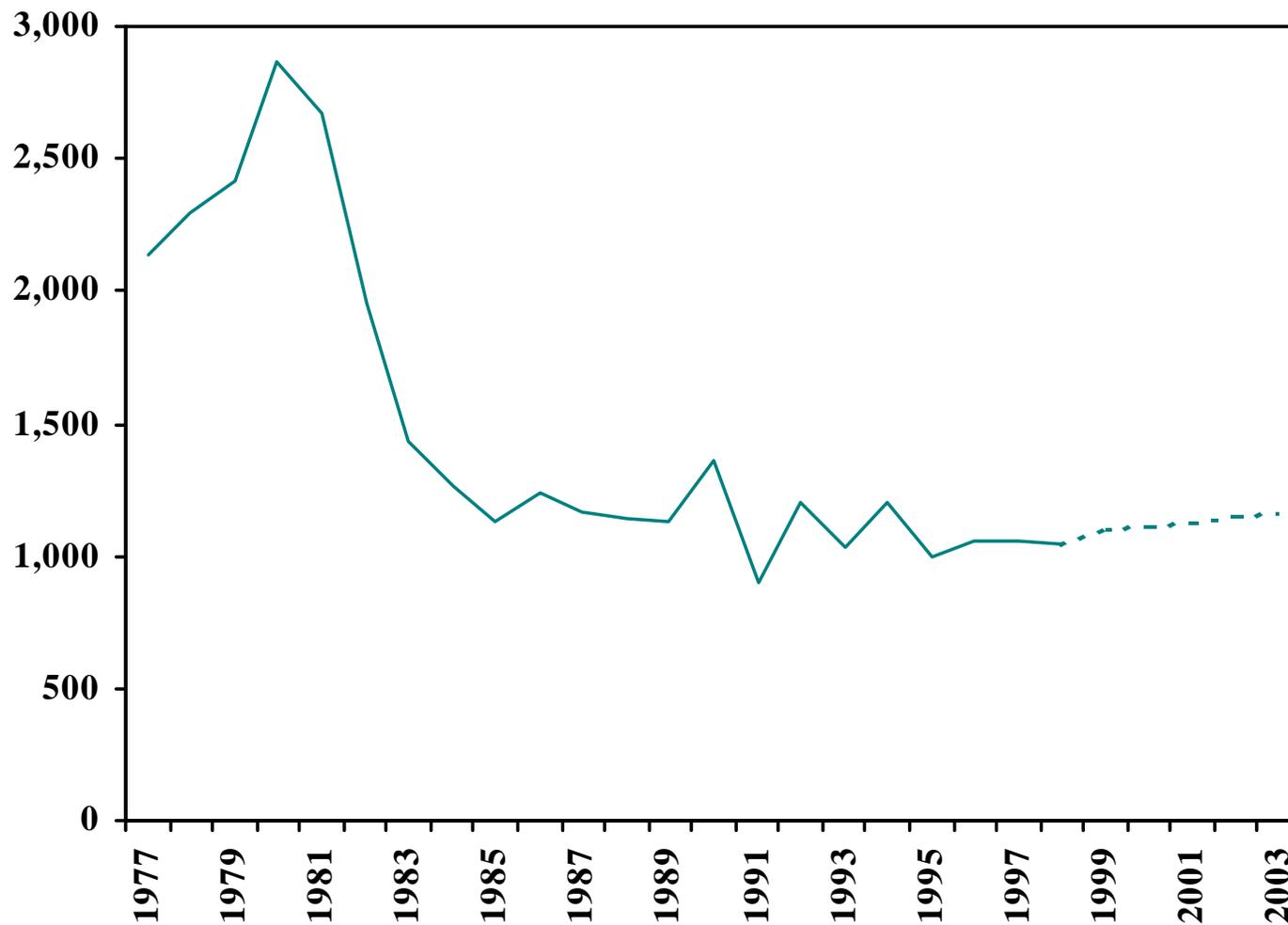
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Prince Edward Island, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

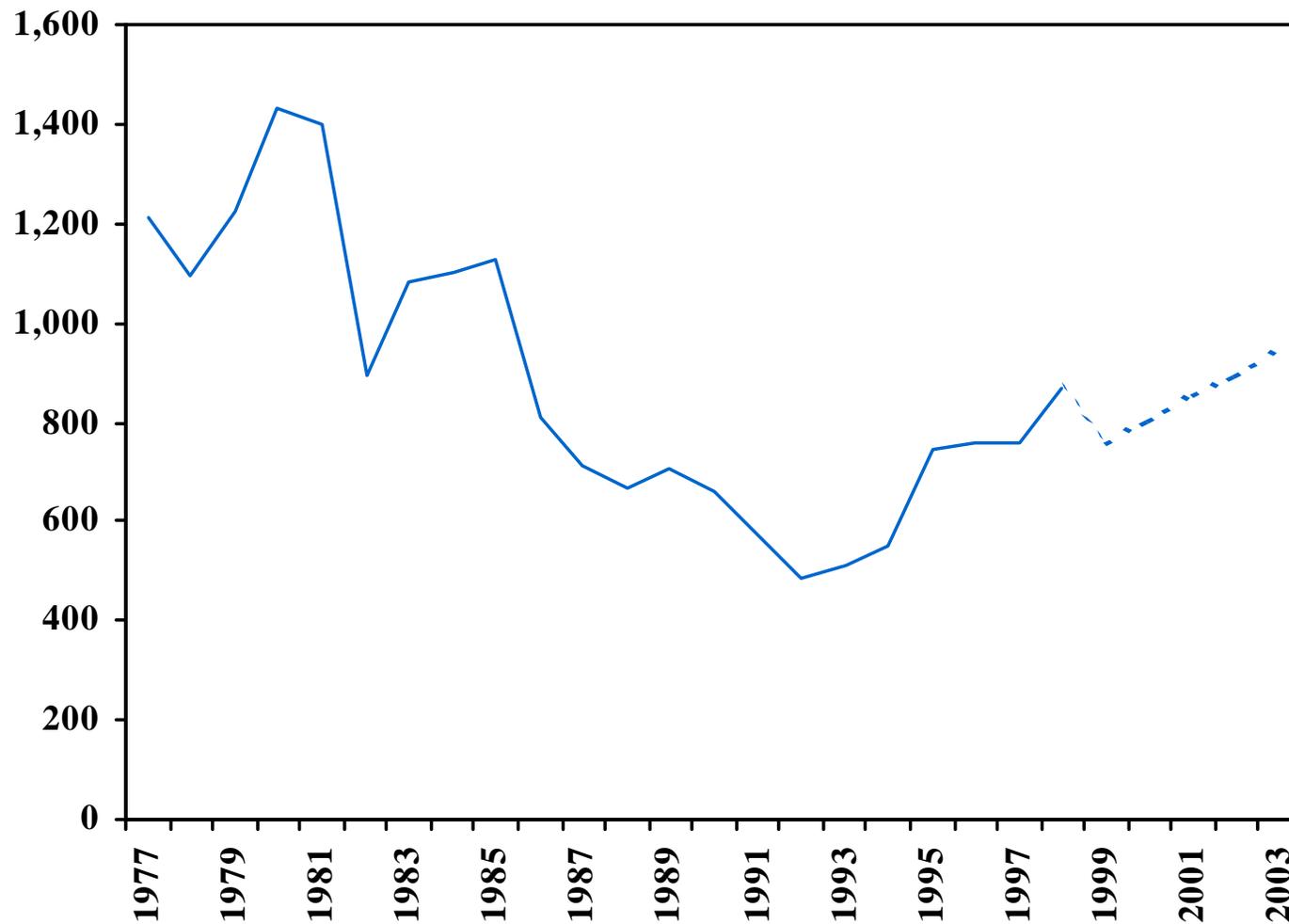
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Nova Scotia, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

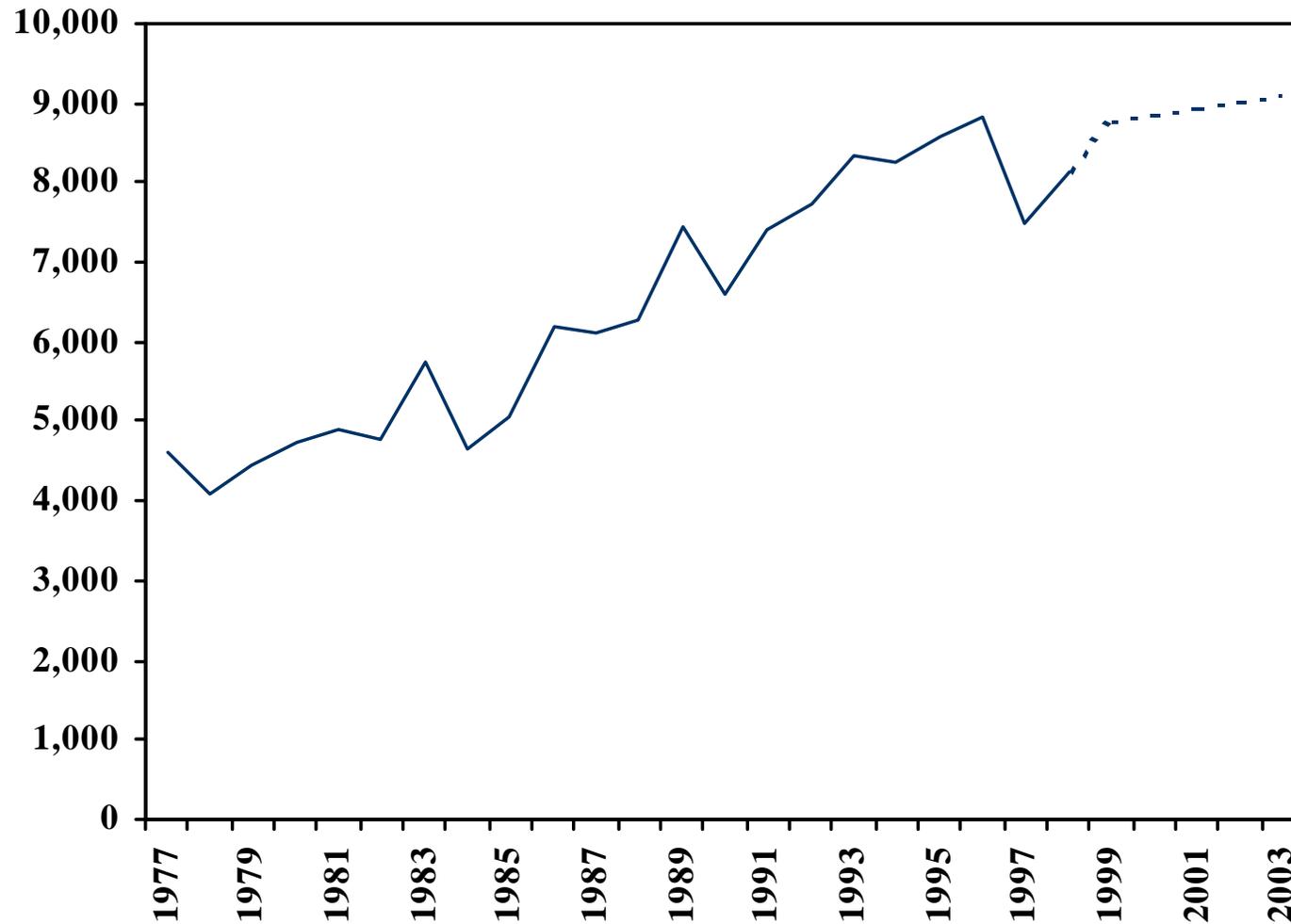
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) New Brunswick, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

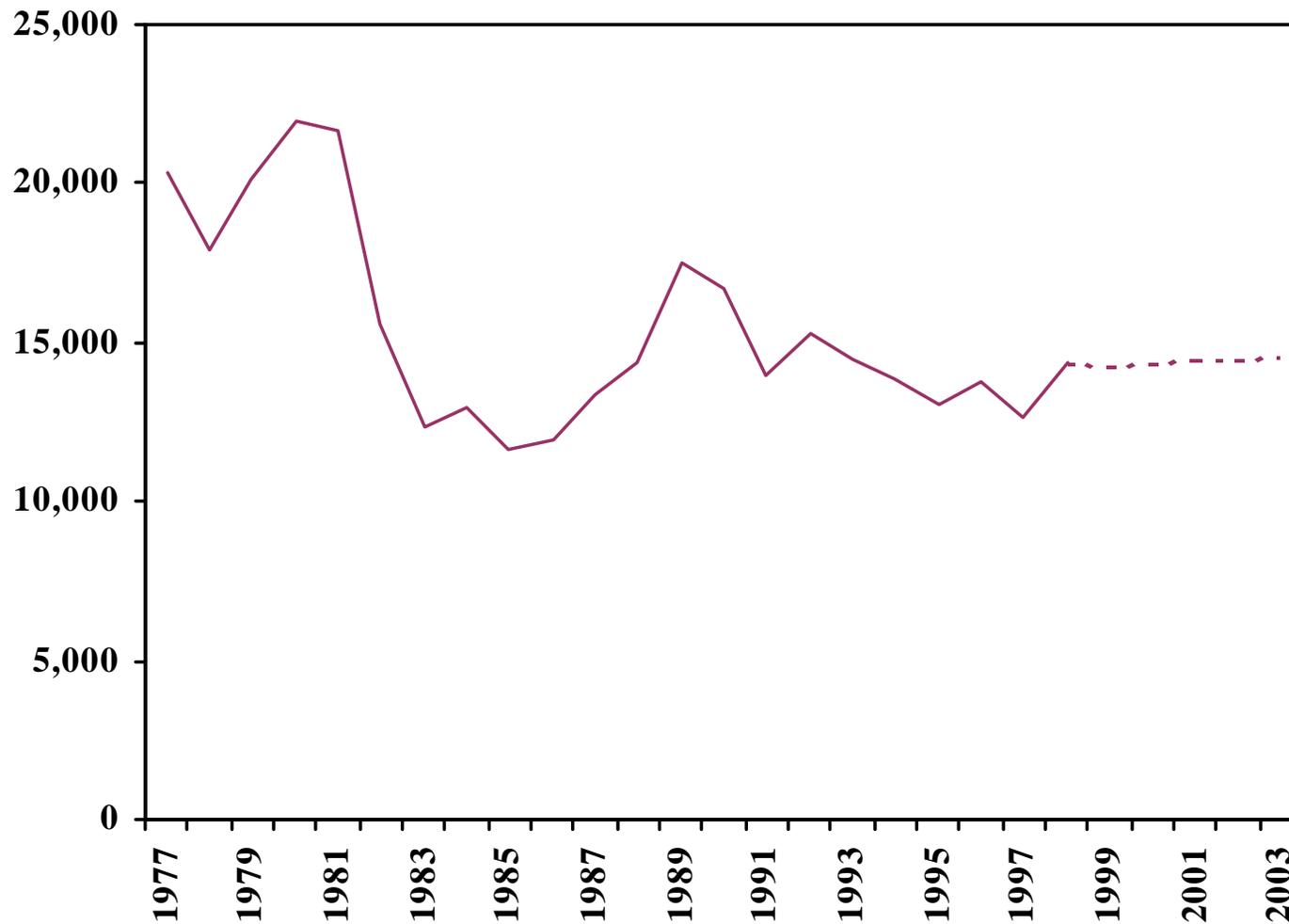
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Quebec, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

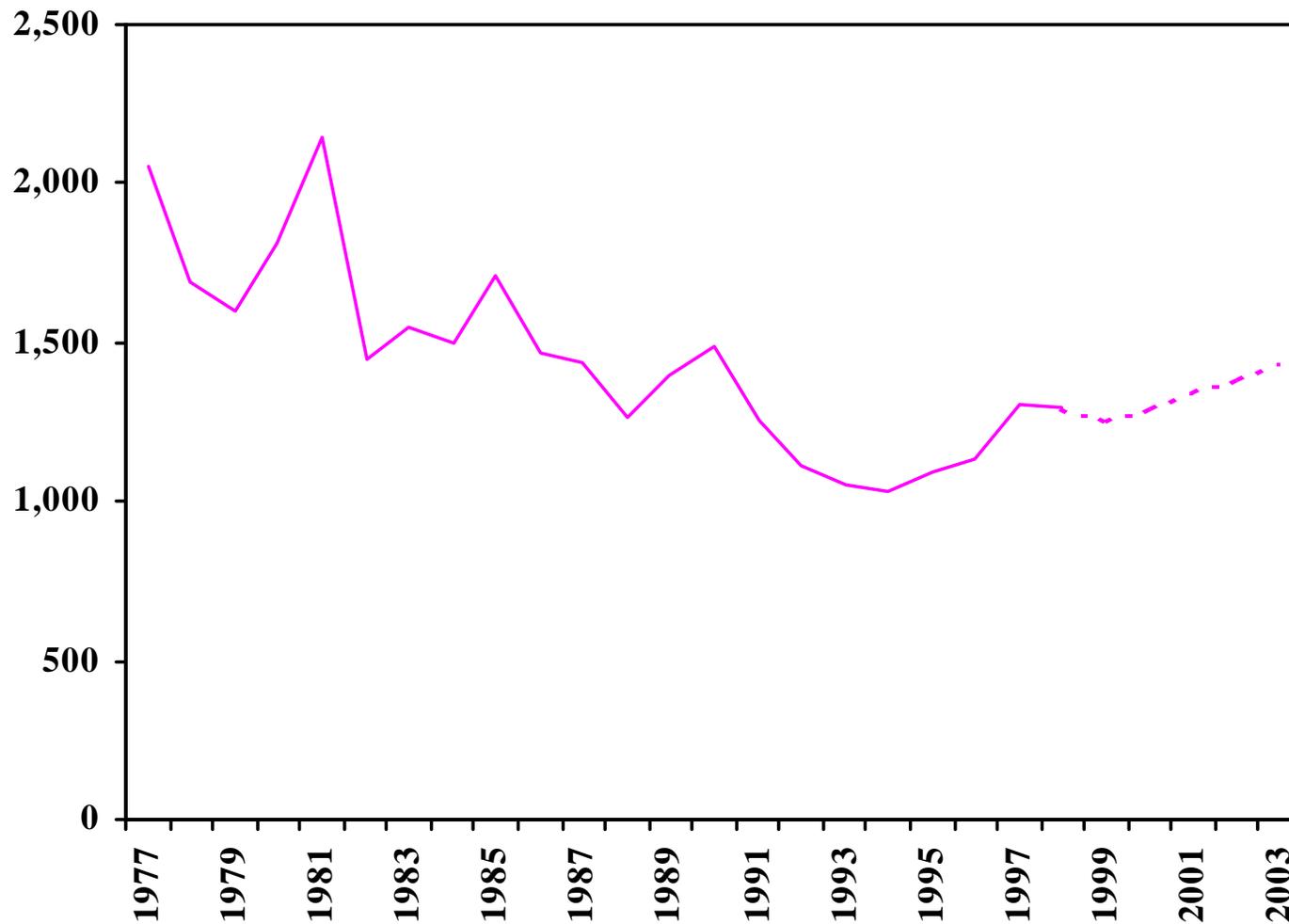
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Ontario, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

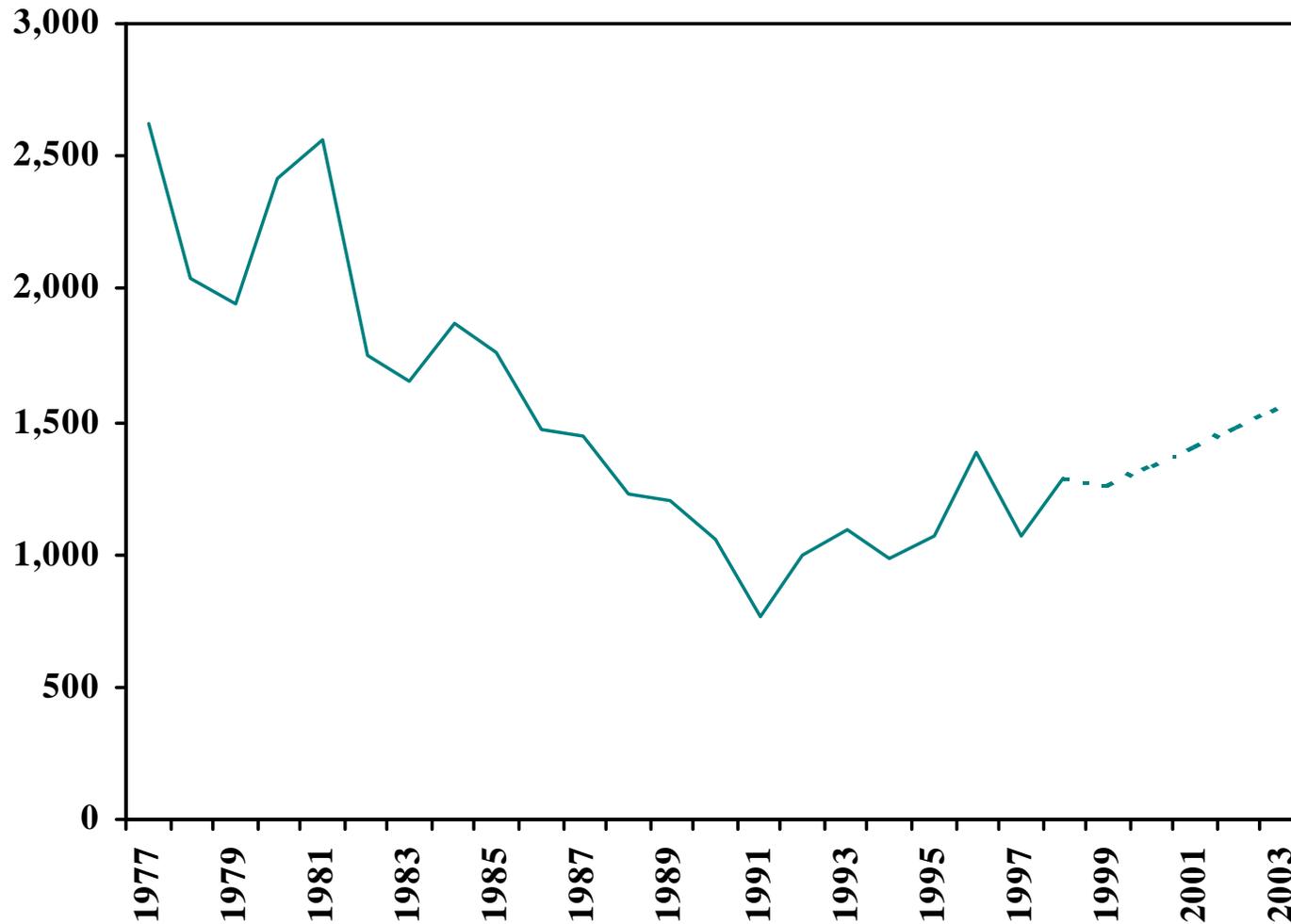
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Manitoba, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

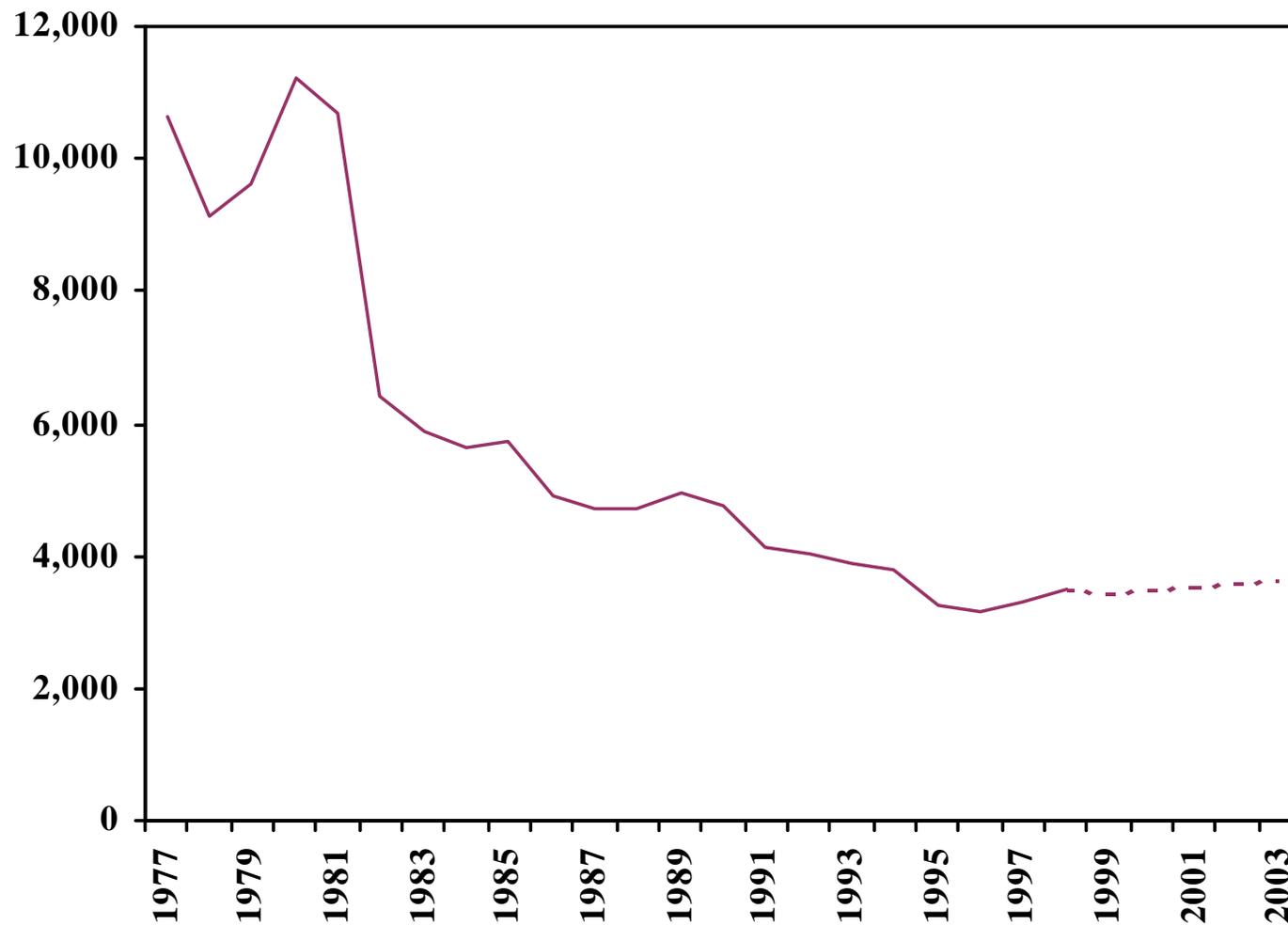
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Saskatchewan, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

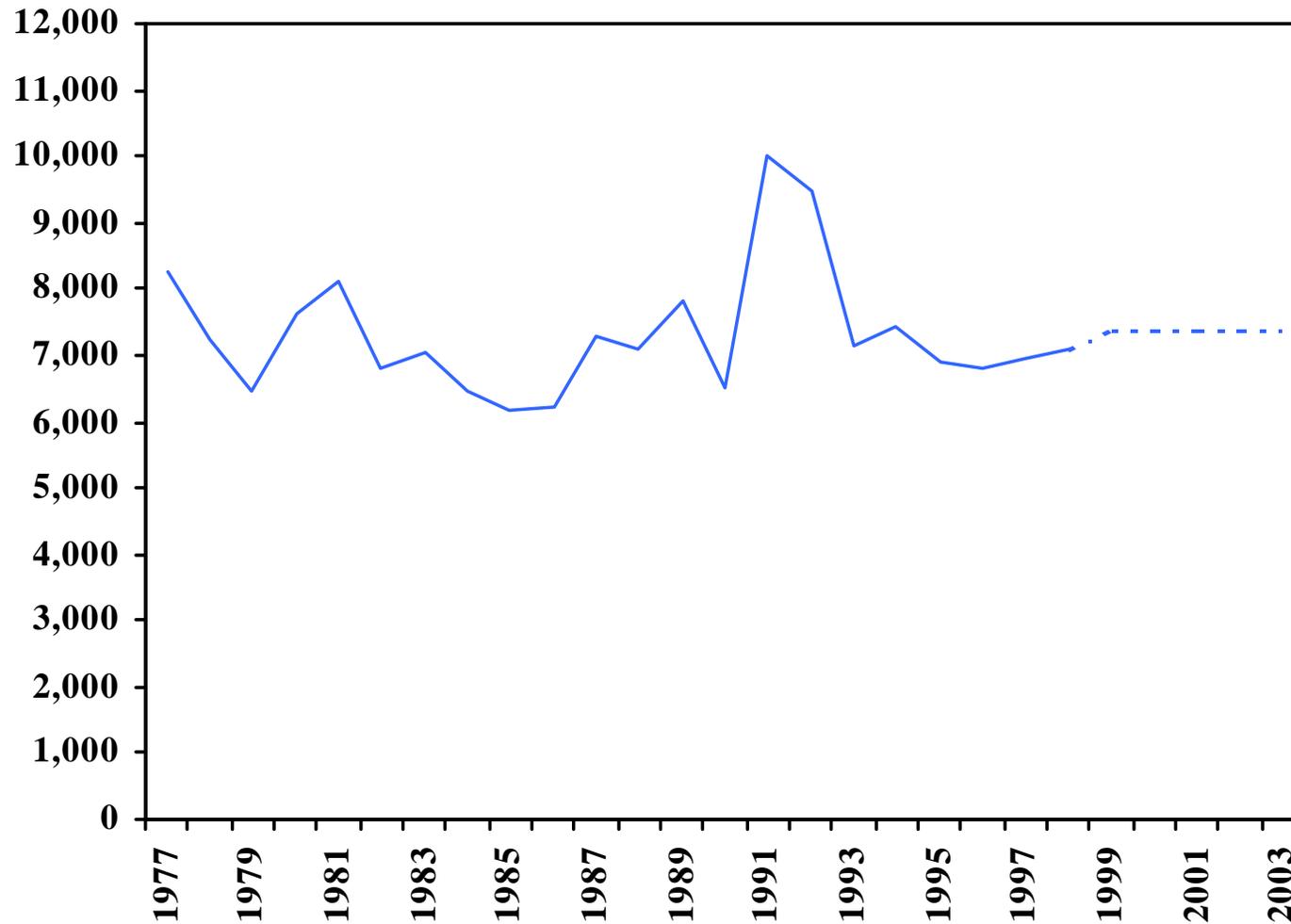
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Alberta, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

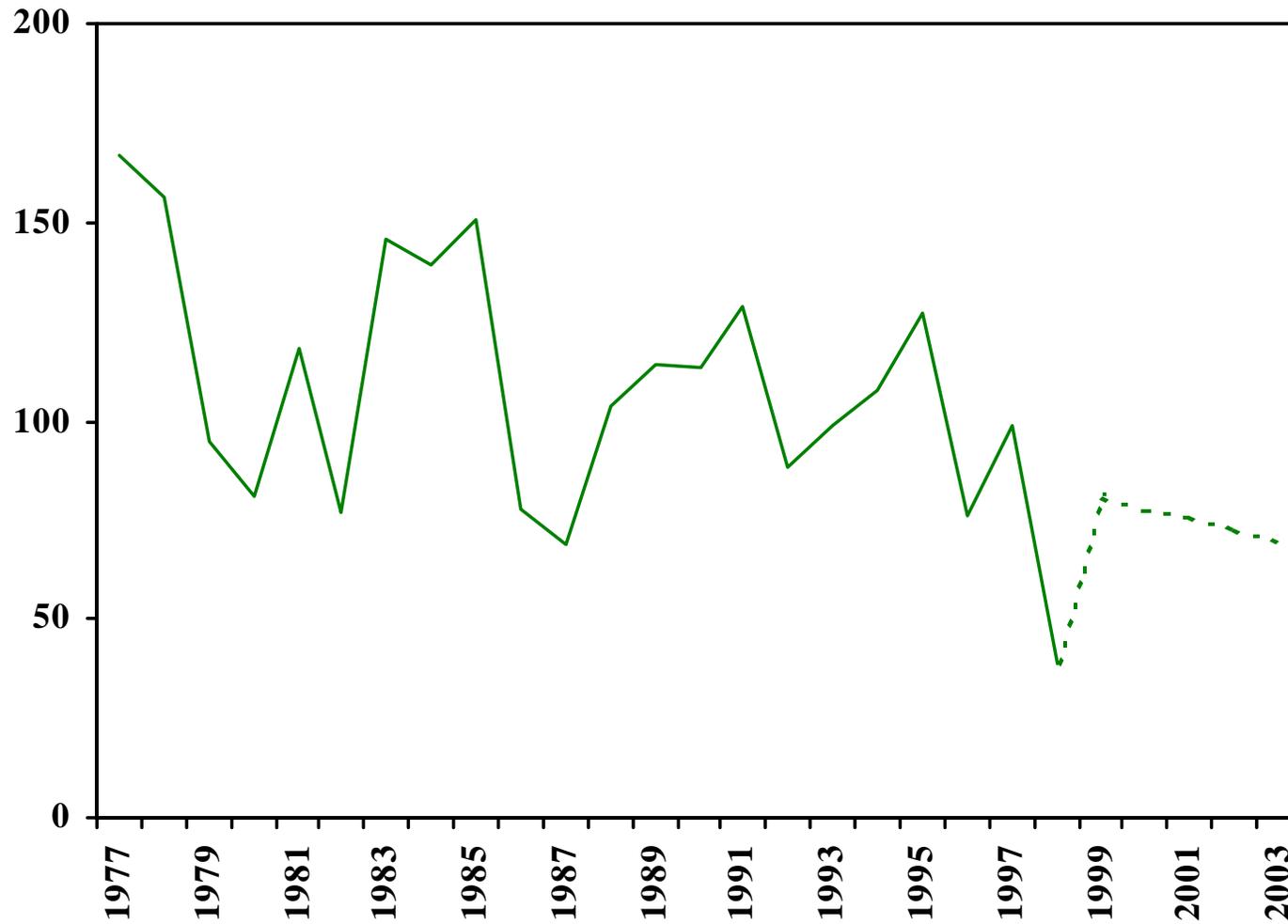
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) British Columbia, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

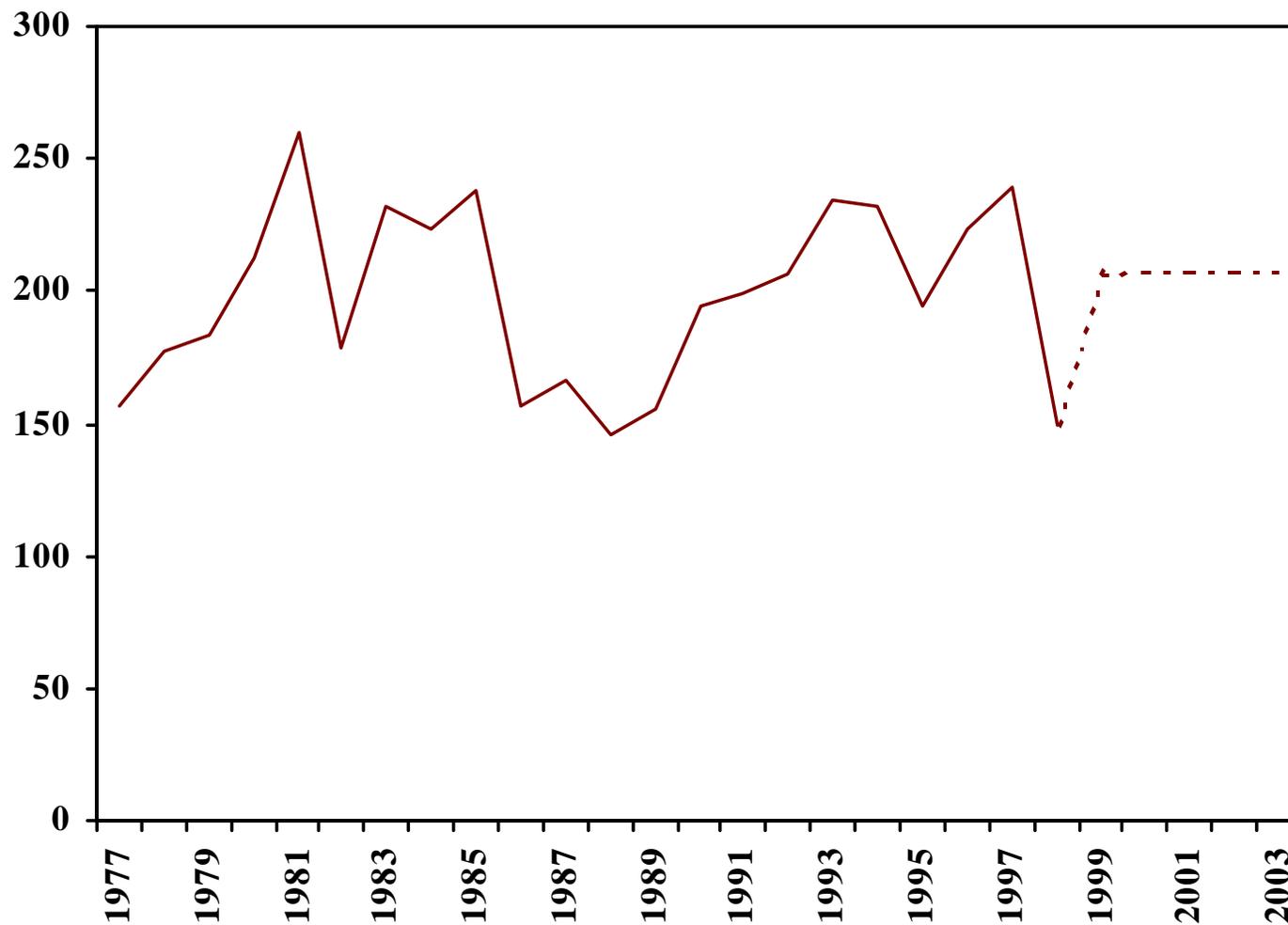
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Yukon, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

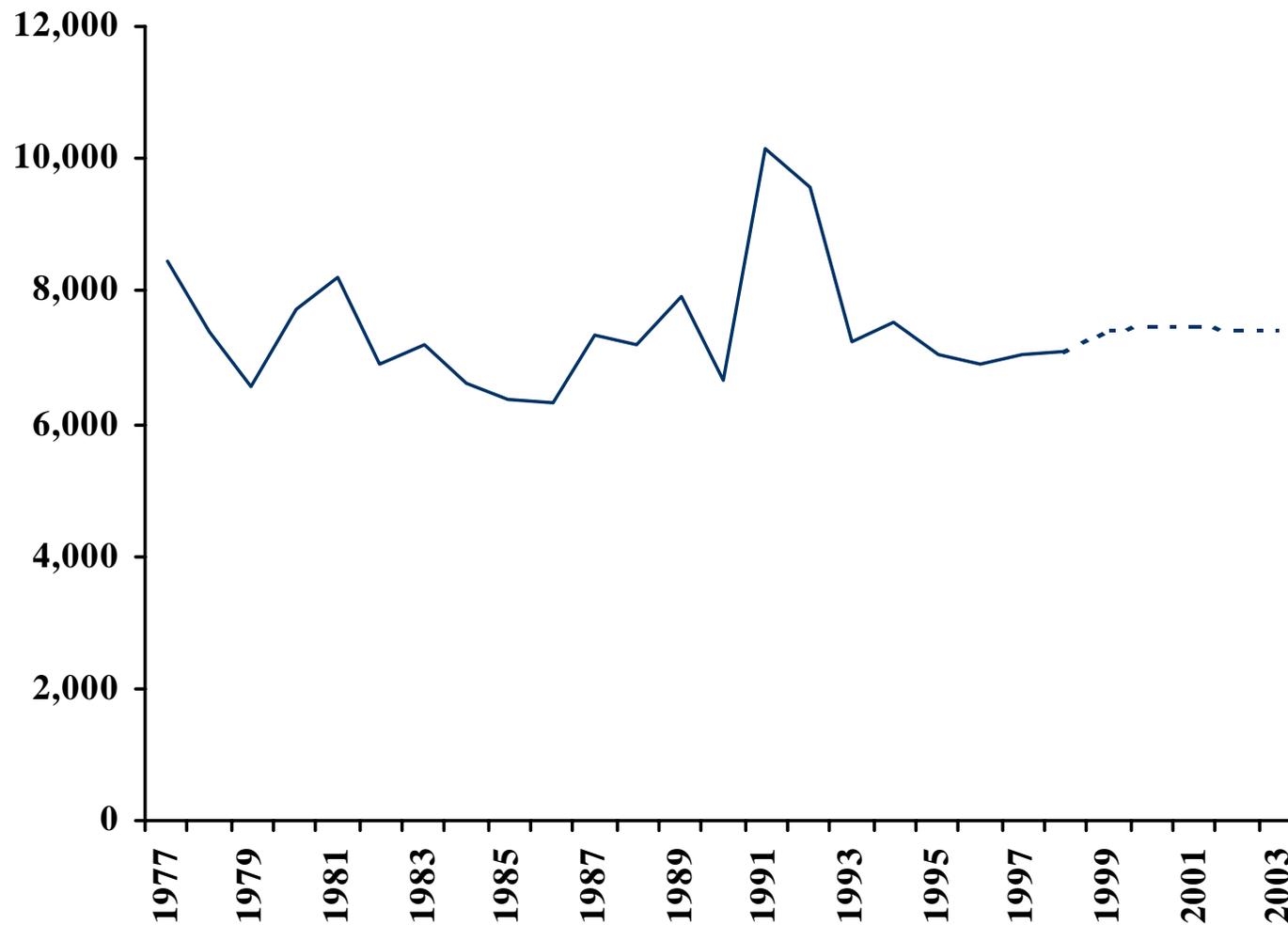
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Northwest Territories, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

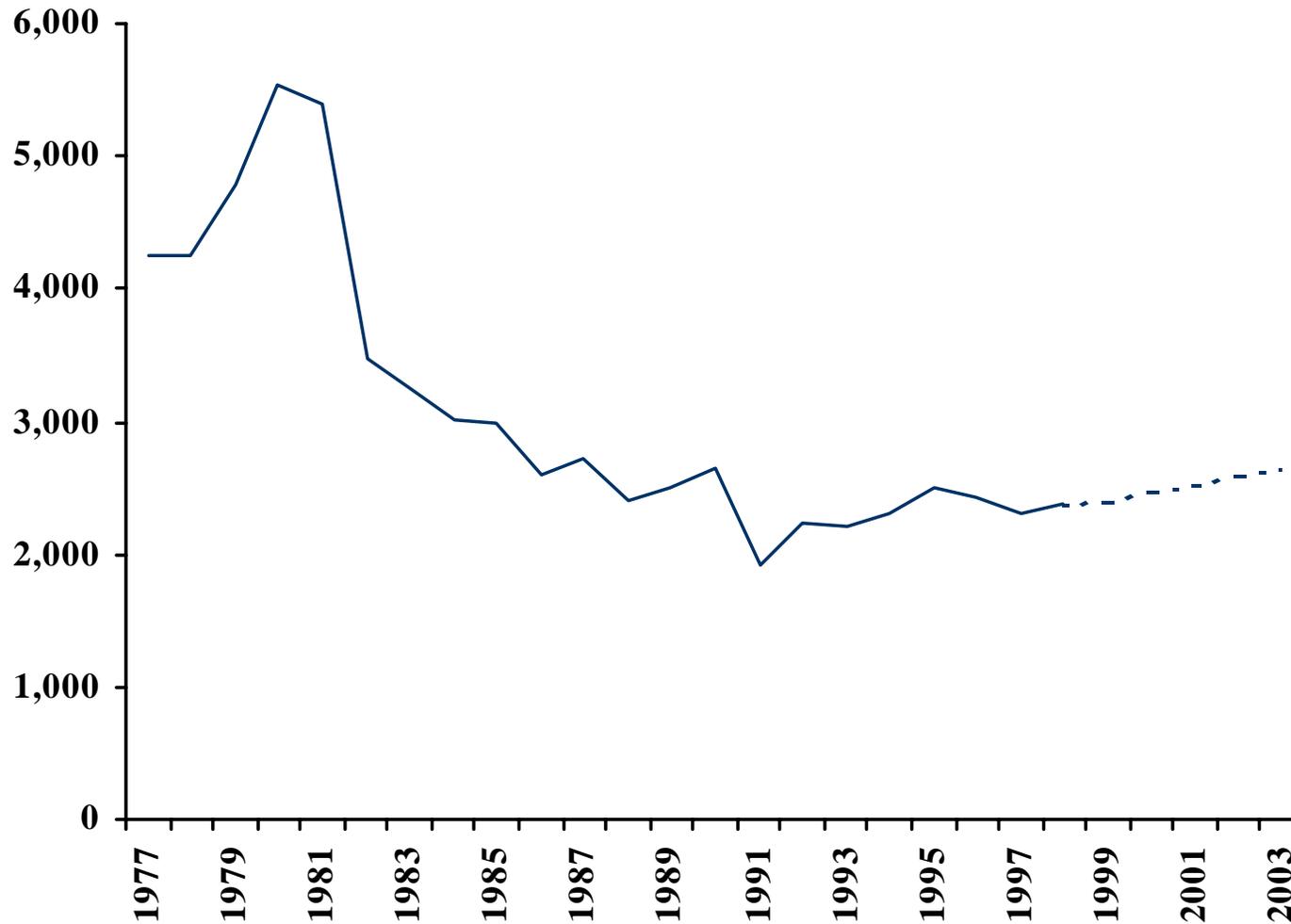
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Pacific Region, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

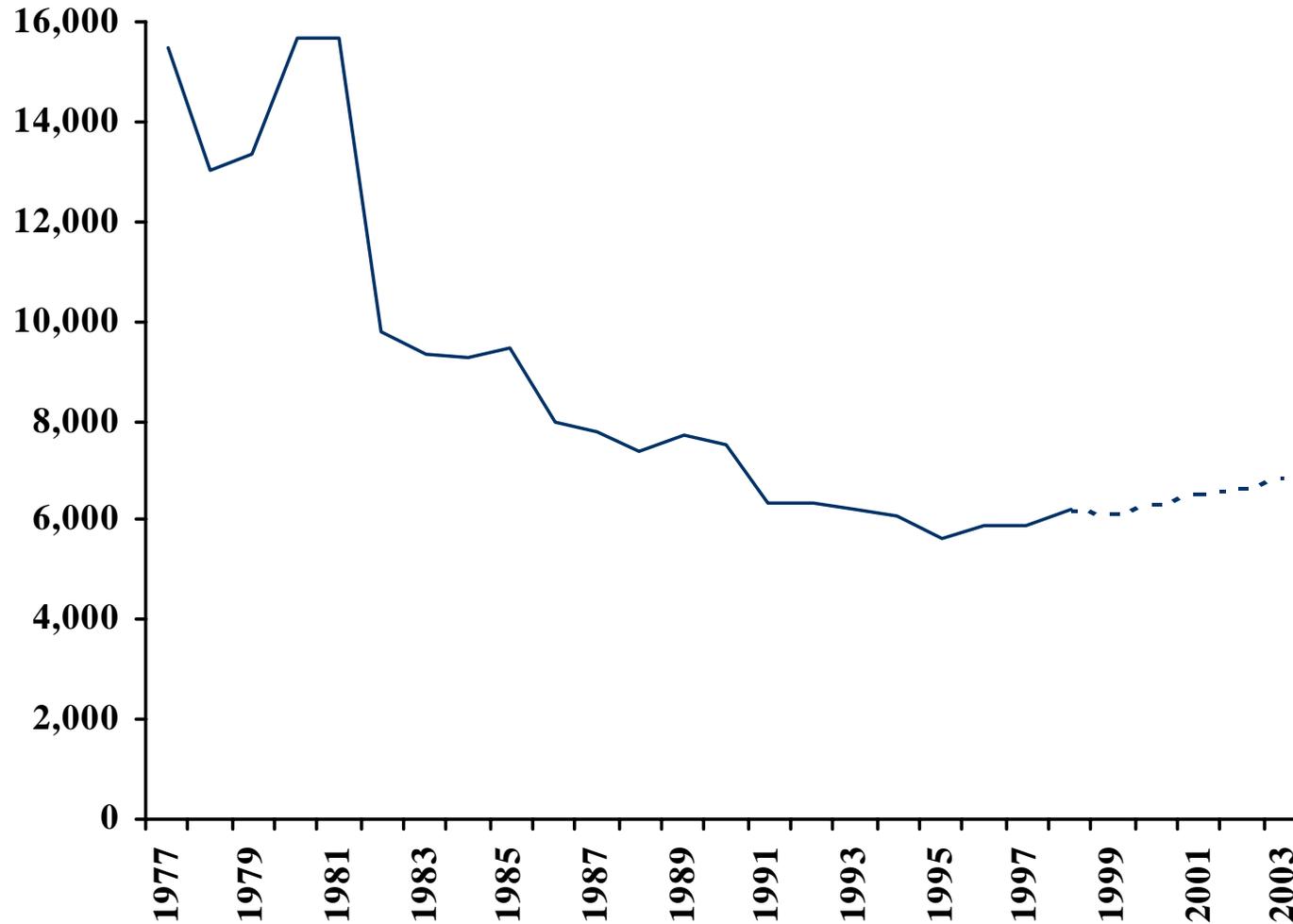
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Atlantic Provinces, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

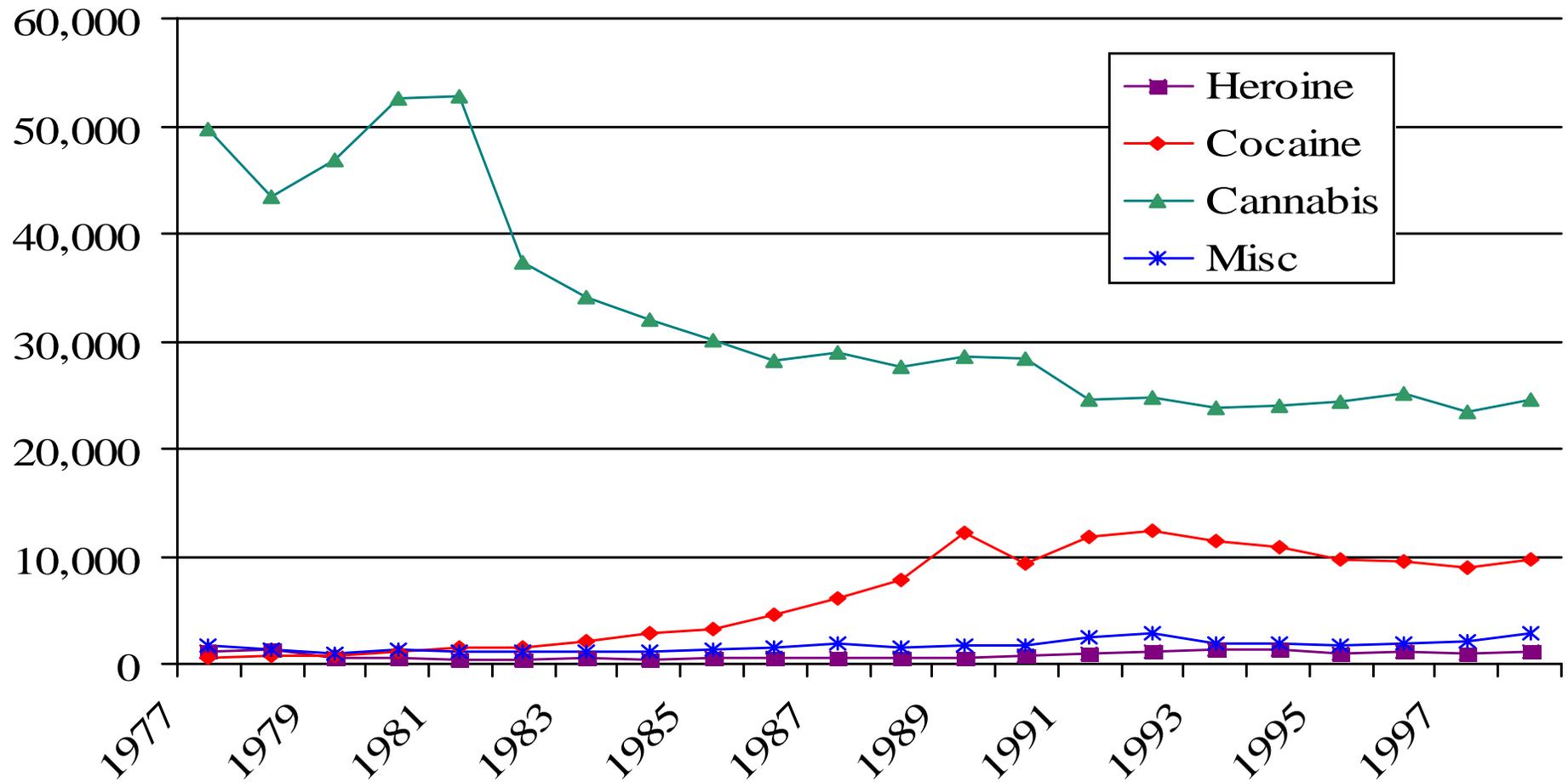
# Number of Adults Charged (Historical and Projected) Prairies, 1977-2003



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

# Type of Drug by Year Canada, 1977-1998

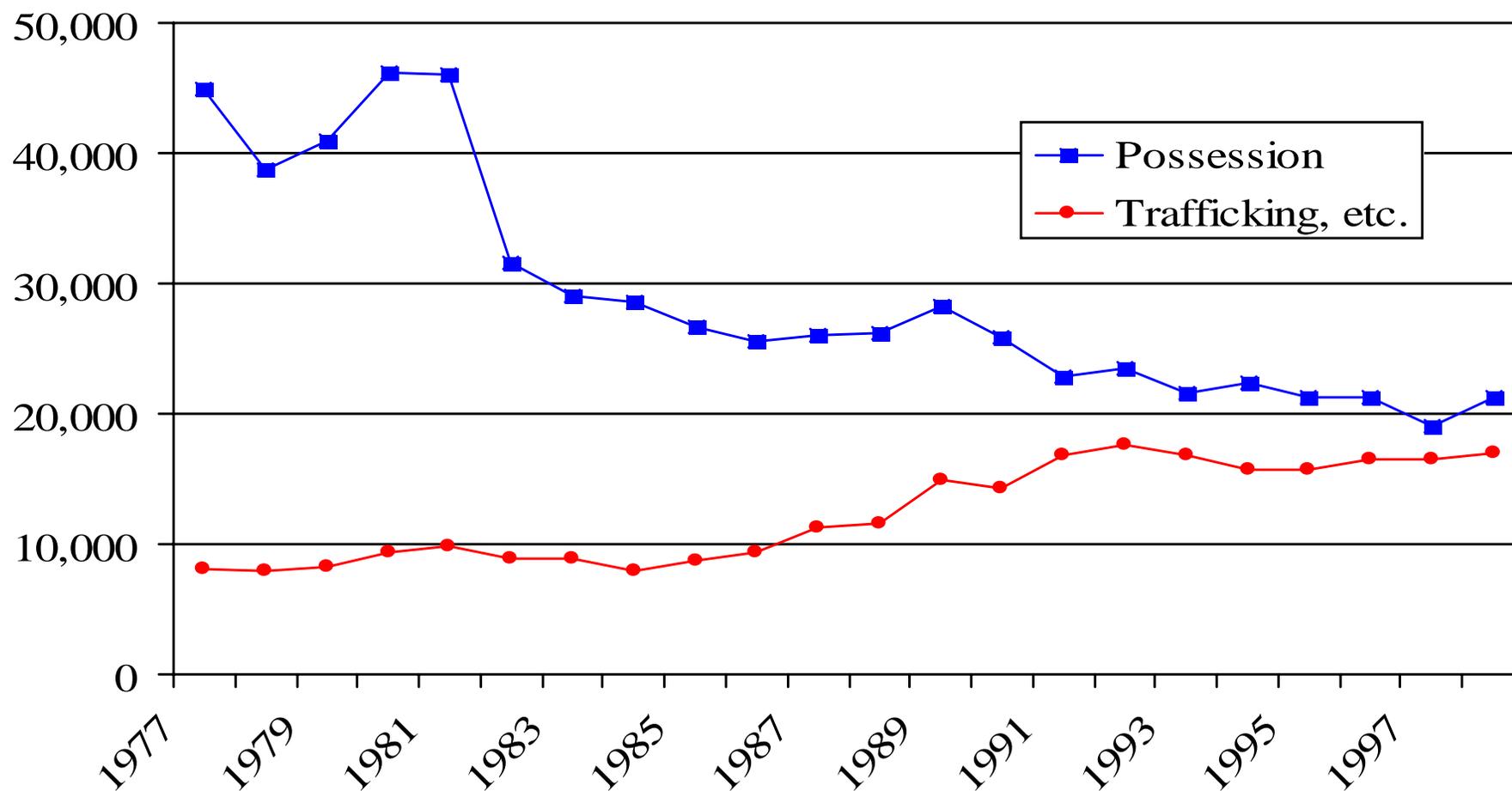


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

# Nature of Drug Offence by Year

## Canada, 1977-1998



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada

**Table 1**  
**Drug Type by Year**  
**Canada, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Misc</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>1977</b>	1,075	619	49,698	1,746	53,138
<b>1978</b>	1,315	714	43,342	1,289	46,660
<b>1979</b>	541	796	46,884	1,026	49,247
<b>1980</b>	541	1,192	52,599	1,258	55,590
<b>1981</b>	377	1,532	52,810	1,160	55,879
<b>1982</b>	467	1,564	37,309	1,147	40,487
<b>1983</b>	643	2,066	34,112	1,061	37,882
<b>1984</b>	430	2,843	32,086	1,146	36,505
<b>1985</b>	508	3,328	30,189	1,412	35,437
<b>1986</b>	551	4,634	28,235	1,575	34,995
<b>1987</b>	491	6,063	28,930	1,816	37,300
<b>1988</b>	591	7,896	27,626	1,564	37,677
<b>1989</b>	600	12,223	28,665	1,673	43,161
<b>1990</b>	717	9,362	28,372	1,691	40,142
<b>1991</b>	990	11,854	24,551	2,396	39,791
<b>1992</b>	1,138	12,356	24,783	2,896	41,173
<b>1993</b>	1,362	11,417	23,783	1,905	38,467
<b>1994</b>	1,276	10,831	24,056	1,829	37,992
<b>1995</b>	1,006	9,778	24,296	1,771	36,851
<b>1996</b>	1,059	9,564	25,172	1,985	37,780
<b>1997</b>	955	8,914	23,498	2,067	35,434
<b>1998</b>	1,111	9,791	24,509	2,787	38,198

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of Drug Offence Type by Year**  
**Canada, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Possession</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>1977</b>	44,998	8,140	53,138
<b>1978</b>	38,748	7,912	46,660
<b>1979</b>	41,023	8,224	49,247
<b>1980</b>	46,192	9,398	55,590
<b>1981</b>	46,016	9,863	55,879
<b>1982</b>	31,666	8,821	40,487
<b>1983</b>	29,046	8,836	37,882
<b>1984</b>	28,548	7,957	36,505
<b>1985</b>	26,700	8,737	35,437
<b>1986</b>	25,577	9,418	34,995
<b>1987</b>	25,979	11,321	37,300
<b>1988</b>	26,156	11,521	37,677
<b>1989</b>	28,261	14,931	43,192
<b>1990</b>	25,798	14,344	40,142
<b>1991</b>	22,920	16,871	39,791
<b>1992</b>	23,528	17,645	41,173
<b>1993</b>	21,618	16,849	38,467
<b>1994</b>	22,304	15,688	37,992
<b>1995</b>	21,205	15,646	36,851
<b>1996</b>	21,227	16,553	37,780
<b>1997</b>	18,998	16,436	35,434
<b>1998</b>	21,200	16,998	38,198

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**

**Number of Adults Charged with a Drug Offence, Number of Drug Cases in Adult Courts and Ratio  
Canada and the provinces / territories, 1996-97 and 1997-98**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Adults charged</b>		<b>Cases in court</b>		<b>Ratio - Cases/adults</b>		
	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1996/97</b>	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Newfoundland</b>	450	349	385	368	0.86	1.05	0.95
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	133	132	123	56	0.92	0.42	0.67
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	1,061	1,054	885	446	0.83	0.42	0.63
<b>New Brunswick</b>	760	783	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Quebec</b>	8,495	7,661	9,211	6,199	1.08	0.81	0.95
<b>Ontario</b>	13,485	13,078	14,186	8,046	1.05	0.62	0.83
<b>Manitoba</b>	1,173	1,304	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	1,309	1,125	973	483	0.74	0.43	0.59
<b>Alberta</b>	3,175	3,349	3,261	3,303	1.03	0.99	1.01
<b>British Columbia</b>	6,845	6,990	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Yukon</b>	82	84	113	113	1.38	1.35	1.36
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	228	217	NA	90	NA	0.42	0.42
<b>CANADA</b>	37,194	36,125	28,629	18,680	1.01	0.68	0.84

Sources: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) and Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS),  
Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 4**  
**Historical and Projected Drug Offences**  
**Canada, 1977-2003**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>
1977	53,138	1991	39,785
1978	46,660	1992	41,173
1979	49,247	1993	38,467
1980	55,590	1994	37,989
1981	55,879	1995	36,851
1982	40,487	1996	37,780
1983	37,882	1997	35,434
1984	36,505	1998	38,198
1985	35,434	1999	39,155
1986	34,990	2000	39,532
1987	37,283	2001	39,908
1988	37,645	2002	40,284
1989	43,181	2003	40,660
1990	40,135		

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Profile and Projection of Drug Prosecutions**  
**Jurisdiction Report**  
**ATLANTIC PROVINCES**  
**(including Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island,**  
**Nova Scotia and New Brunswick)**

by  
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**Research and Statistics Division**  
**Department of Justice Canada**

**March 2000**



## Highlights for Atlantic provinces

- In 1998, there were 4,248 adults charged by the police with a drug offence, accounting for 6.2% of Canada, which is higher than its population share of 7.8%.
- From 1977 to 1998, the **number of adults charged** with a drug offence decreased by 44% from 4,248 adults charged in 1977 to 2,378 adults charged in 1998. However, the trend has been stable in the last few years.
- In terms of **types of drugs**, there had been a large increase in the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence in the early 1980s. Since 1982, however, it has been on a slow downward trend. In contrast, there had been a large increase in the number of adults charged with cocaine offences since the late 1980s. The number of adults charged with miscellaneous drug offences has been on a downward trend before 1995 but has since increased rapidly. However, heroin offences recorded a decrease in the period examined.
- In terms of **nature of offence**, drug possession now accounts for 64% of all adults charged with drug offence while drug trafficking accounts for 28%. The remaining 8% involve cultivation and importation of drugs. The proportion of drug possession has slowly increased in the last few years while drug trafficking have remained fairly stable.
- A comparison between the number of adults charged with drug offences and the number of drug cases handled in **the Atlantic provinces provincial criminal courts** (excluding New Brunswick) reveals that for every 100 adults charged, about 75 cases end up in courts.
- Based on the **extrapolation method of projection** selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase about 12% in the next five years, increasing from 2,378 in 1998 to 2,652 in 2003.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

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## **Data Sources**

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These data were collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) which represents the crime data of every police force in Canada. The data from this survey are the most current and reliable data on drug offences that are available in Canada today. [At the request of the Agent Affairs Unit, the number of drug offences here include only those under the Narcotic Control Act (NCA), excluding those under the Food and Drugs Act (FDA).]

In addition to police data, we also look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from British Columbia, Manitoba and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Figures 1-2, Appendices 1-2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged in the Atlantic provinces with cannabis offences accounted for 78% of all drug offences in 1998, followed by cocaine (12%), and miscellaneous narcotics (10%). Only 1 adult was charged with a heroin offence that year.

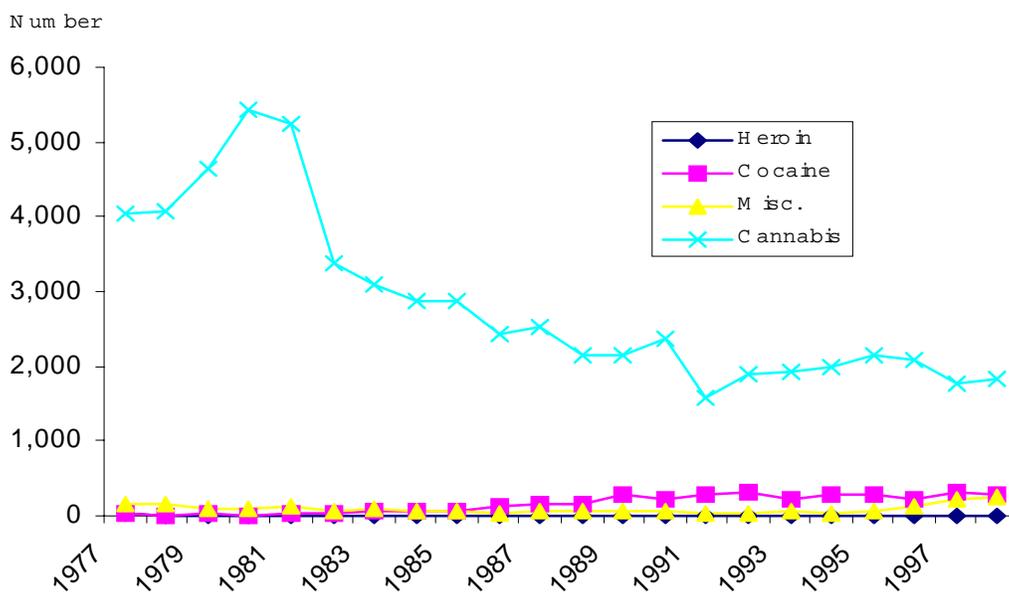
**Heroin** offences have decreased dramatically from 17 adults charged in 1977 to 1 adult charged in 1998. Because of the small numbers, there were wide fluctuations.

**Cocaine** offences increased dramatically from 21 adults charged in the late 1970s to 285 in 1998 (14 times). The biggest increase was reported between 1985 to 1986 (+118%).

**Cannabis** offences increased rapidly in the early 1980s. From 1982 on, the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence was on a slow downward trend, and has decreased 65% from from 5,252 in 1981 to 1,847 in 1998.

**Miscellaneous** drug offences have decreased steadily from 153 adults charged in 1977 to 48 adults charged in 1995. However, there were large increases in the past few years. The 1998 total of 245 adults was 4 times the number in 1995 (48 adults).

**Figure 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Atlantic provinces, 1977-1998**



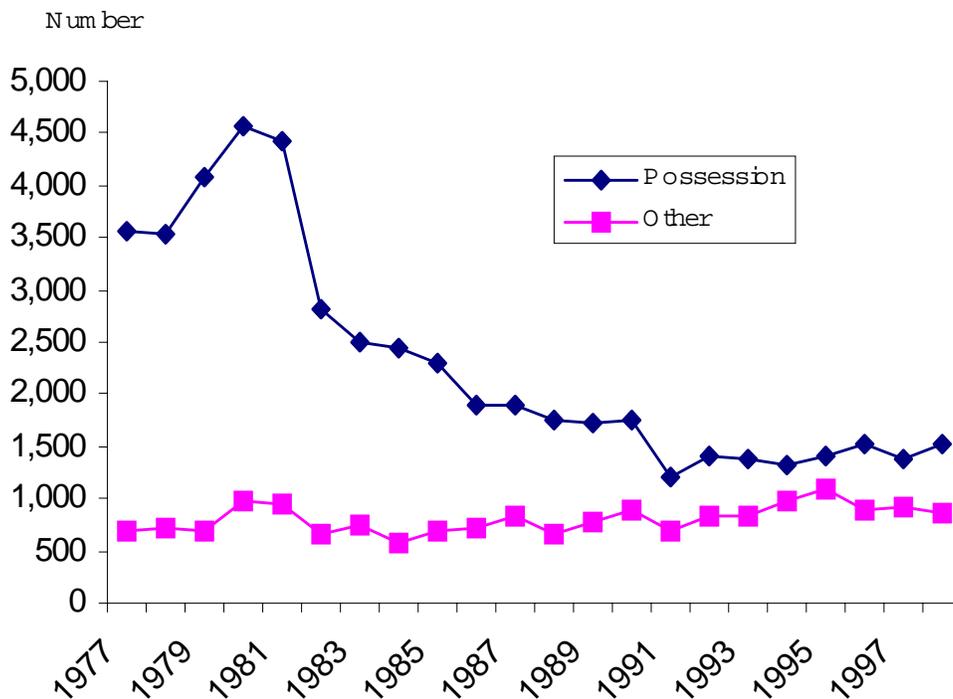
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

In terms of nature of offence, drug **possession** accounted for two-thirds (64%) of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998; drug **trafficking** accounted for 28%; cultivation of cannabis accounted for 7%. Drug importation offences accounted for less than 1% of the drug offences reported in 1998

The number of adults charged with drug **possession** increased in the early 1980s. In 1982, it started its downward trend from 2,816 adults charged with a possession offence to 1,511 adults charged in 1998 (-46%).

The number of adults charged with **trafficking** has remained fairly stable through the years, where less than 1,000 adults charged, except in 1995 where 1,026 adults were charged with a trafficking offence. Importation of drugs has remained under 30 adults charged for the period examined, and the decrease from 1977 (23) to 1998 (19) has been minimal. The number of adults charged with a cultivation offence has remained fairly stable from the late 1970s to the late 1980s. However, there has been a rapid increase in the 1990s, from 22 in 1991 to 171 adults charged in 1998, an eightfold increase.

**Figure 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Atlantic provinces, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

As a whole, the **total** number of adults charged with drug offences in Atlantic provinces decreased from 4,248 in the late 1970s to 2,378 in 1998. The trend has generally been levelling in the last few years.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

## **Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data**

This section only examines data from Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, as New Brunswick does not report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS).

The assumption in comparing the number of adults charged by the police and the number of cases handled by provincial criminal courts is that a small proportion of the offenders charged may not actually appear before the courts for various reasons such as diversion. If this is the case, then the number of drug cases in courts should be slightly below the number of adults charged.

Two years of provincial criminal court data were used in the comparison (1996/97 and 1997/98). In 1996/97, there were 1,644 persons charged by the police in the Atlantic provinces while there were 1,393 cases handled by Atlantic provinces provincial criminal courts. The ratio between the two numbers was 0.85, compared to 1.01 for Canada as a whole. Note that the number can be higher than 1 because the time of appearance before the courts is not the same as the time of charging by the police and some cases handled by the courts may have been cases charged by the police in previous year.

However, the ratio in 1997/98 was significantly lower. There were 1,535 persons charged by the police in the Atlantic provinces while there were 870 cases handled by Atlantic provinces provincial criminal courts. The ratio was 0.57, meaning that for every 100 adults charged by the police, 57 cases were handled in the provincial criminal courts. The situation was similar for the rest of Canada where the ratio was only 0.68. The reason of these lower ratios is not known.

The conclusion is that for every 100 adults charged by the police in Atlantic provinces the average number of court cases is about 75, which is slightly lower than the Canada ratio (85). However, the actual number may vary widely from about 40 to 100, depending on the jurisdiction in question.

## **Methods of Projection**

The statistical method chosen in the following projection is called **Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection**. The method is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The method involves the calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

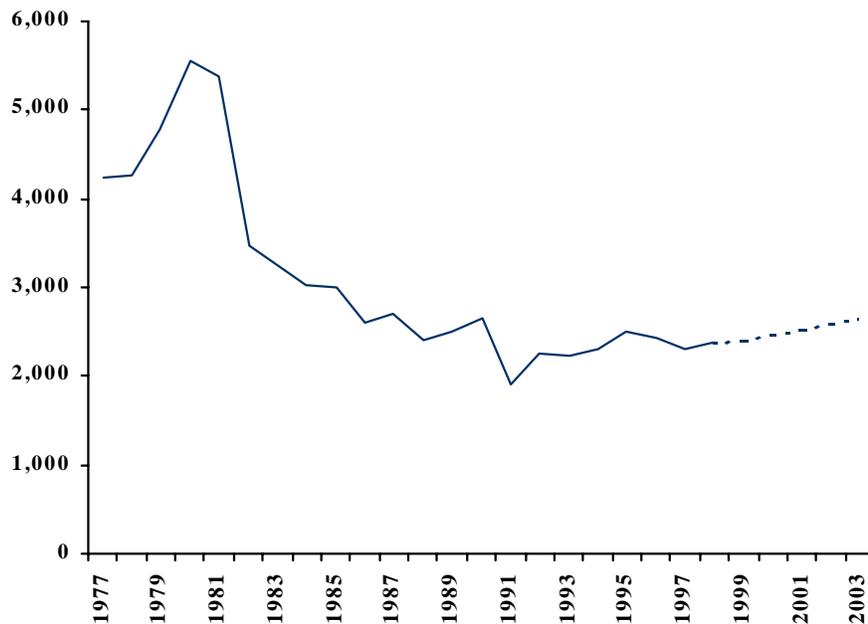
### **Results of the Projection (Figure 3, Appendix 3)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

The result of the extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police in the Atlantic provinces will increase slightly in the next five years. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be about 12%, from 2,378 adults charged in 1998 to 2,652 in 2003.

**Figure 3**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Atlantic Provinces, Actual (1977-1998) and Projected (1999-2003)**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

# **APPENDICES**

**Table 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Atlantic provinces, 1977-1998**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	17	21	153	4,057	4,248
1978	5	8	156	4,087	4,256
1979	7	21	109	4,648	4,785
1980	4	3	108	5,435	5,550
1981	2	21	112	5,252	5,387
1982	2	21	53	3,393	3,469
1983	1	57	93	3,107	3,258
1984	12	63	76	2,869	3,020
1985	9	57	56	2,875	2,997
1986	0	124	43	2,433	2,600
1987	4	145	51	2,511	2,711
1988	2	167	70	2,161	2,400
1989	8	285	67	2,149	2,509
1990	2	220	56	2,374	2,652
1991	3	274	43	1,593	1,913
1992	3	331	27	1,885	2,246
1993	3	223	55	1,940	2,221
1994	5	285	42	1,983	2,315
1995	15	291	48	2,159	2,513
1996	1	223	114	2,100	2,438
1997	1	311	206	1,781	2,299
1998	1	285	245	1,847	2,378

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Atlantic provinces, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Possession</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Importation</b>	<b>Cultivation</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	3,560	655	23	10	4,248
1978	3,544	684	7	21	4,256
1979	4,088	688	7	2	4,785
1980	4,560	960	24	6	5,550
1981	4,425	940	11	11	5,387
1982	2,816	636	8	9	3,469
1983	2,508	725	9	16	3,258
1984	2,434	564	8	14	3,020
1985	2,297	660	25	15	2,997
1986	1,892	670	24	14	2,600
1987	1,892	781	28	10	2,711
1988	1,744	638	6	12	2,400
1989	1,728	749	10	22	2,509
1990	1,754	875	6	17	2,652
1991	1,215	670	6	22	1,913
1992	1,403	789	3	51	2,246
1993	1,385	795	3	38	2,221
1994	1,336	916	15	48	2,315
1995	1,410	1,026	4	73	2,513
1996	1,533	789	6	110	2,438
1997	1,371	729	21	178	2,299
1998	1,511	677	19	171	2,378

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**  
**Projected number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Atlantic provinces, 1999-2003**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Number</b>
1999	2,417
2000	2,476
2001	2,536
2002	2,593
2003	2,652

Projections prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.

**Profile and Projection of Drug Prosecutions**  
**Jurisdiction Report**  
**QUEBEC**

by  
Nathalie L. Quann, M.A.  
Kwing Hung, Ph.D.

**Research and Statistics Division**  
**Department of Justice Canada**

**March 2000**



## Highlights for Quebec

- In 1998, there were 8,122 adults charged by the police with a drug offence, accounting for 21.3% of Canada, same as its population share of 24.2%.
- From 1977 to 1998, the **number of adults charged** with a drug offence increased by 77% from 4,600 adults charged in 1977 to 8,122 adults charged in 1998. However, the trend has been levelling in the last few years.
- In terms of **types of drugs**, there had been an increase in the number of adults charged with cannabis offences and a large increase in the number of adults charged with cocaine offences during the mid-1980s. An increase has also been reported in the number of adults charged with miscellaneous drug offences in the early 1990s. However, heroine offences recorded an increase over the past 20 years, reaching its peak in 1992.
- In terms of **nature of offence**, drug possession now accounts for 47% of all adults charged with drug offences. The remaining 53% involve trafficking, cultivation and importation of drugs. The proportion of drug possession has remained rather stable in the last few years.
- A comparison between the number of adults charged with drug offences and the number of drug cases handled in **Quebec provincial criminal courts** reveals that for every 100 adults charged, about 95 cases end up in courts.
- Based on the **extrapolation method of projection** selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase 12% in the next five years, increasing from 8,122 in 1998 to 9,118 in 2003.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

This is an update of that project. There are two products in the project: a national report and a series of jurisdictional reports. The reports provide information on historical profile of the trend of drug offences in the past 20 years plus a five-year projection of the trend into the future.

## **Data Sources**

The profiles and projections were based on police reported data collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The period of data used was from 1977 to 1998, the latest data available. As the objective is to produce indicators of workload in drug prosecutions, data on the number of adults formally charged by the police are used.

These data were collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) which represents the crime data of every police force in Canada. The data from this survey are the most current and reliable data on drug offences that are available in Canada today. [At the request of the Agent Affairs Unit, the number of drug offences here include only those under the Narcotic Control Act (NCA), excluding those under the Food and Drugs Act (FDA).]

In addition to police data, we also look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from British Columbia, Manitoba and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Figures 1-2, Appendices 1-2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged in Quebec with cannabis offences accounted for 60% of all drug offences in 1998, followed by cocaine (27%), and heroine (1%). The remaining 12% were for miscellaneous narcotics.

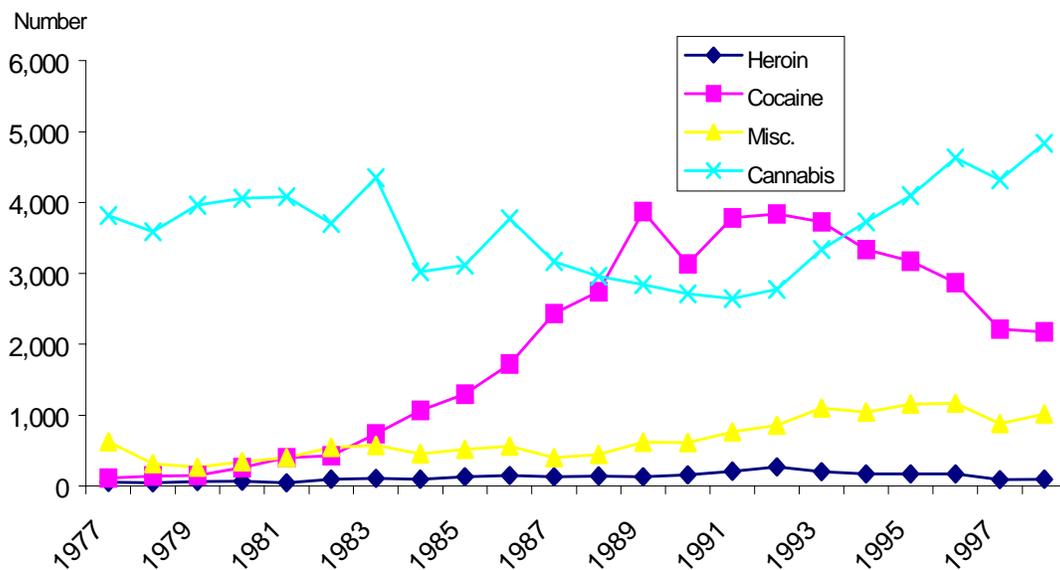
**Heroin** offences increased from 51 adults charged in the late 1970s to around 269 in 1992. The total number of adults charged slowly declined in the 1990s to 97 adults charged in 1998.

**Cocaine** offences increased rapidly from 112 adults charged in the late 1970s to its peak of 3,870 adults charged in 1989. From then on, the number of adults charged with a cocaine offence has decreased 43%, to 2,175 adults charged in 1998.

**Cannabis** offences have varied over the 1970s to most of the 1980s. It reached its lowest in 1991 at 2,645 adults charged and has been on a steady increase ever since (+83% from 1991 to 1998).

**Miscellaneous** drug offences stayed at below 1,000 adults charged between 1977 and 1992. The total number has been levelling ever since, except in 1997, where 881 adults were charged.

**Figure 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Quebec, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

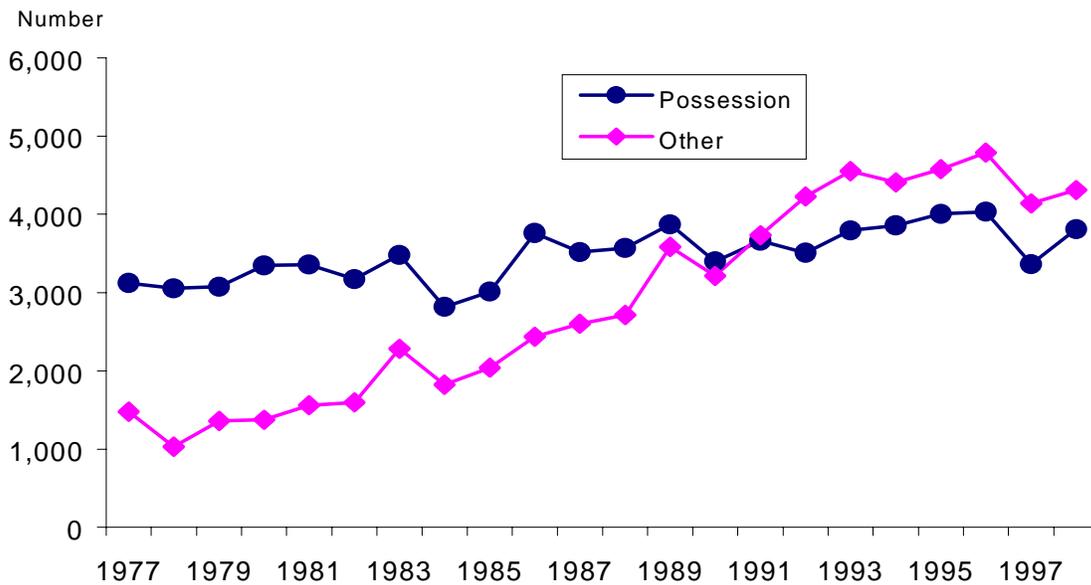
In terms of nature of offence, drug **possession** accounted for almost one-half (47%) of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998; drug **trafficking** accounted for 43%; cultivation of cannabis accounted for 9%; drug importation accounted for the remaining 1%.

The number of adults charged with drug **possession** increased between 1977 to 1986, from about 3,122 in 1977 to 3,759 in 1986. Since then, the increase has slowed down. By 1998, the total

was 3,809. Drug possession accounted for 68% of all drug offences in 1977 but only 47% in 1998.

In contrast, the number of adults charged with **trafficking** and importation of drugs increased rapidly from 1,318 in 1977 to 4,223 in 1996. Since then, the trend has been levelling off. The number of adults charged with a cultivation offence has remained fairly stable from the late 1970s to the early 1980s only to decrease to a low of 25 adults charged in 1986. However, it rapidly increased from then on, from 144 adults charged with a cultivation offence in 1992 to 736 in 1998.

**Figure 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Quebec, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

As a whole, the **total** number of adults charged with drug offences in Quebec increased from 4,600 in 1977 to over 8,122 in 1998. The trend has generally been decreasing in the last few years.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

## Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data

The assumption in comparing the number of adults charged by the police and the number of cases handled by provincial criminal courts is that a small proportion of the offenders charged may not actually appear before the courts for various reasons such as diversion. If this is the case, then the number of drug cases in courts should be slightly below the number of adults charged.

Two years of provincial criminal court data were used in the comparison (1996/97 and 1997/98). In 1996/97, there were 8,495 persons charged by the police in Quebec while there were 9,211 cases handled by Quebec provincial criminal courts. The ratio between the two numbers was 1.08, compared to 1.01 for Canada as a whole. Note that the number can be higher than 1 because the time of appearance before the courts is not the same as the time of charging by the police and some cases handled by the courts may have been cases charged by the police in previous year.

However, the situation in 1997/98 was quite different. There were 7,661 persons charged by the police in Quebec while there were 6,199 cases handled by Quebec provincial criminal courts. The ratio was 0.81, meaning that for every 100 adults charged by the police, 81 cases were handled in the provincial criminal courts. This was significantly lower than in 1996/97. The situation was similar for the rest of Canada where the ratio was only 0.68. The reason of these lower ratios is not known.

The conclusion is that for every 100 adults charged by the police in Quebec the average number of court cases is about 95, compared to 85 in Canada. However, the actual number may vary widely from about 40 to 100, depending on the jurisdiction in question.

## Methods of Projection

The statistical method chosen in the following projection is called **Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection**. The method is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The method involves the calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

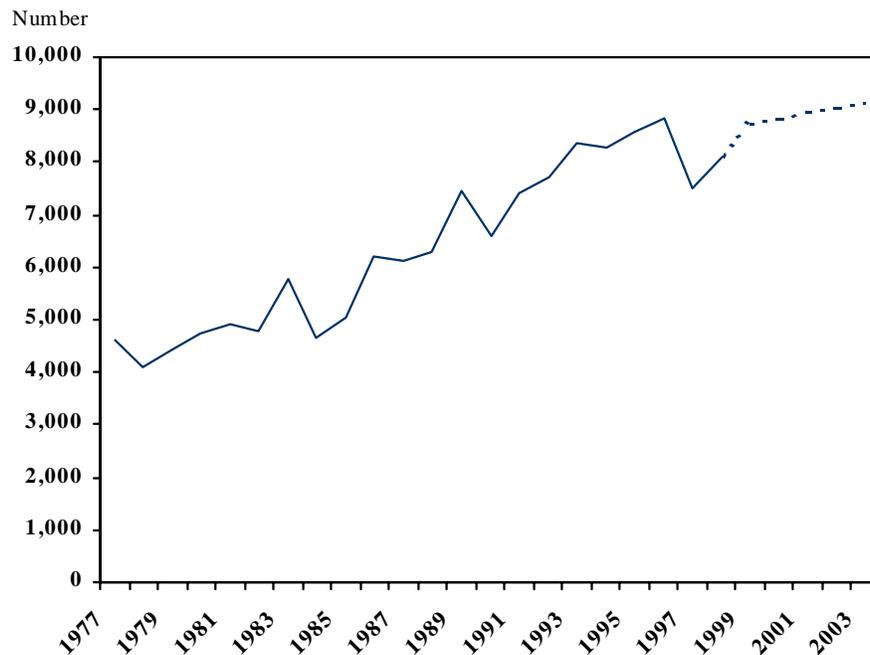
### **Results of the Projection (Figure 3, Appendix 3)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because of small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

The result of the extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police in Quebec will increase in the next five years. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be about 12%, from 8,122 adults charged in 1998 to 9,118 in 2003.

**Figure 3**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Quebec, Actual (1977-1998) and Projected (1999-2003)**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

# **APPENDICES**

**Table 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Quebec, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	51	112	624	3,813	4,600
1978	43	141	314	3,587	4,085
1979	62	148	263	3,963	4,436
1980	65	258	343	4,056	4,722
1981	43	399	396	4,080	4,918
1982	96	424	544	3,705	4,769
1983	107	732	574	4,348	5,761
1984	97	1,067	453	3,022	4,639
1985	129	1,296	514	3,114	5,053
1986	146	1,718	562	3,768	6,194
1987	128	2,429	398	3,164	6,119
1988	138	2,740	445	2,957	6,280
1989	128	3,870	617	2,840	7,455
1990	158	3,134	609	2,713	6,614
1991	210	3,779	763	2,645	7,397
1992	269	3,835	856	2,775	7,735
1993	200	3,723	1,096	3,331	8,350
1994	169	3,332	1,041	3,723	8,265
1995	170	3,170	1,155	4,093	8,588
1996	167	2,866	1,164	4,627	8,824
1997	91	2,213	881	4,322	7,507
1998	97	2,175	1,015	4,835	8,122

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Quebec, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Possession</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Importation</b>	<b>Cultivation</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	3,122	1,318	68	92	4,600
1978	3,054	853	106	72	4,085
1979	3,075	1,163	107	91	4,436
1980	3,349	1,212	61	100	4,722
1981	3,359	1,409	45	105	4,918
1982	3,174	1,425	97	73	4,769
1983	3,480	1,881	298	102	5,761
1984	2,816	1,460	310	53	4,639
1985	3,011	1,739	271	32	5,053
1986	3,759	2,242	168	25	6,194
1987	3,519	2,319	234	47	6,119
1988	3,568	2,532	139	41	6,280
1989	3,873	3,357	136	89	7,455
1990	3,398	3,114	62	40	6,614
1991	3,663	3,516	146	72	7,397
1992	3,507	3,910	174	144	7,735
1993	3,797	4,221	173	159	8,350
1994	3,857	4,097	112	199	8,265
1995	4,007	4,147	167	267	8,588
1996	4,032	4,223	150	419	8,824
1997	3,364	3,441	102	600	7,507
1998	3,809	3,479	98	736	8,122

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**  
**Projected number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Quebec, 1999-2003**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Number</b>
1999	8,769
2000	8,856
2001	8,944
2002	9,031
2003	9,118

Projections prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.

**Profile and Projection of Drug Prosecutions**  
**Jurisdiction Report**  
**ONTARIO**

by  
Nathalie L. Quann, M.A.  
Kwing Hung, Ph.D.

**Research and Statistics Division**  
**Department of Justice Canada**

**March 2000**



## **Highlights for Ontario**

- In 1998, there were 14,354 adults charged by the police with a drug offence, accounting for 37.6% of Canada, same as its population share of 37.7%.
- From 1977 to 1998, the **number of adults charged** with a drug offence decreased by 30% from 20,388 adults charged in 1977 to 14,354 adults charged in 1998. However, the trend has been levelling in the last few years.
- In terms of **types of drugs**, there had been an increase in the number of adults charged with cannabis offences in the late 1970s, followed by a rapid decline and a levelling trend. In contrast, there had been a large increase in the number of adults charged with cocaine offences during the mid-1980s. An increase has also been reported in the number of adults charged with miscellaneous drug offences in the early 1990s. However, heroin offences recorded an increase over the past 20 years, reaching its peak in 1993.
- In terms of **nature of offence**, drug possession now accounts for 69% of all adults charged with drug offences. The remaining 31% involve trafficking, cultivation and importation of drugs. The proportion of drug possession has remained rather stable in the last few years.
- A comparison between the number of adults charged with drug offences and the number of drug cases handled in **Ontario provincial criminal courts** reveals that for every 100 adults charged, about 83 cases end up in courts.
- Based on the **extrapolation method of projection** selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase about 2% in the next five years, increasing from 14,354 in 1998 to 14,583 in 2003.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

This is an update of that project. There are two products in the project: a national report and a series of jurisdictional reports. The reports provide information on historical profile of the trend of drug offences in the past 20 years plus a five-year projection of the trend into the future.

## **Data Sources**

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In addition to police data, we also look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from British Columbia, Manitoba and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Figures 1-2, Appendices 1-2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged in Ontario with cannabis offences accounted for 70% of all drug offences in 1998, followed by cocaine (23%), and heroin (2%). The remaining 5% were for miscellaneous narcotics.

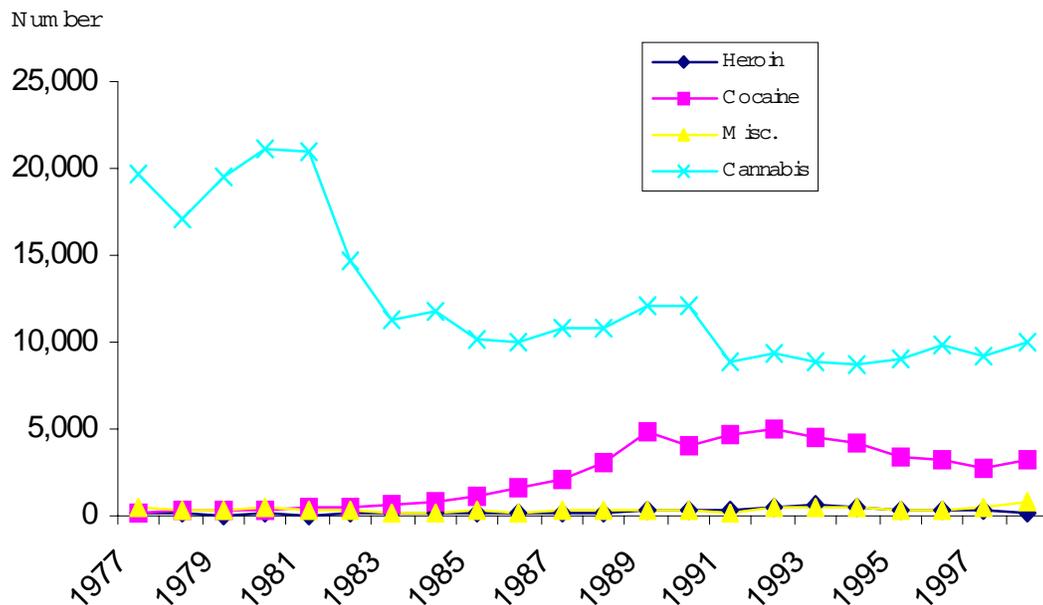
**Heroin** offences increased from 124 adults charged in the late 1970s to around 583 in 1993. The total number of adults charged slowly declined in the 1990s to 225 adults charged in 1998.

**Cocaine** offences increased rapidly from 198 adults charged in the late 1970s to its peak of 4,976 adults charged in 1992. From then on, the number of adults charged with a cocaine offence has decreased by 34%, to 3,304 adults charged in 1998.

**Cannabis** offences have experienced an increase in the late 1970s. In the early 1980s, the level dropped rapidly for two years, followed by a period of levelling trend. The lowest number of adults charged (8,717) was recorded in 1994. Since then, it increased to 10,019 in 1998 (+15%).

**Miscellaneous** drug offences stayed at below 500 adults charged between 1977 and 1991. The total number has been levelling ever since, except in 1998, where 806 adults were charged.

**Figure 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Ontario, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

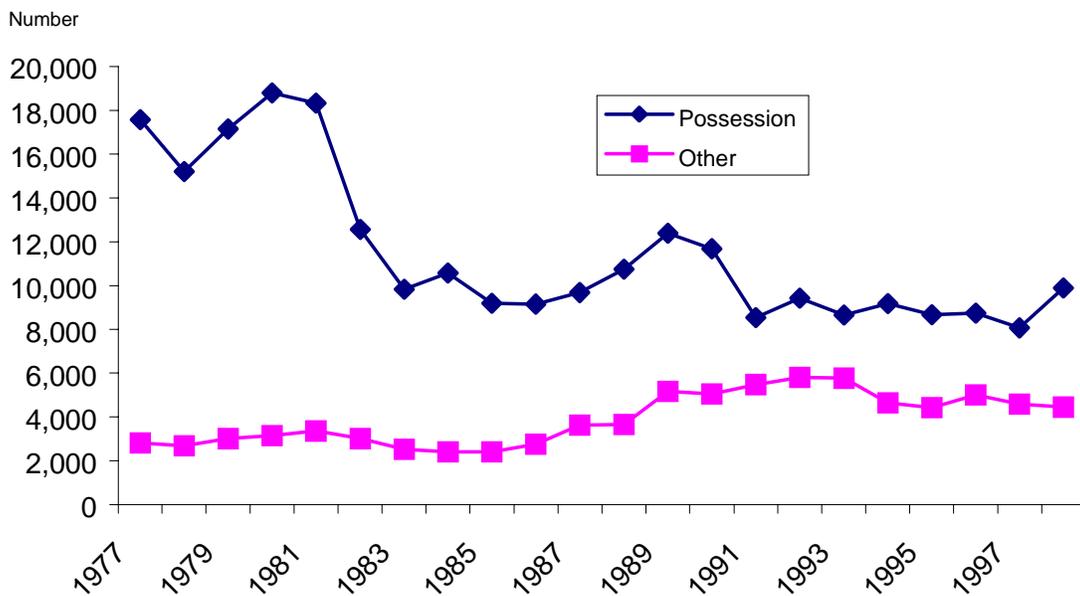
In terms of nature of offence, drug **possession** accounted for two-thirds (69%) of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998; drug **trafficking** accounted for 23%; cultivation of cannabis accounted for 5%; drug importation accounted for the remaining 3%.

The number of adults charged with drug **possession** slightly increased between 1977 to 1981, from about 17,566 in 1977 to 18,327 in 1981. Since then, the number of adults charged

decreased gradually and by 1998, the total was 9,895. Drug possession accounted for 86% of all drug offences in 1977 but only 69% in 1998.

In contrast, the number of adults charged with **trafficking** and importation of drugs increased rapidly from 2,748 in 1977 to 5,361 in 1992. Since then, the trend has been on a steady decrease. The number of adults charged with a cultivation offence has remained fairly stable from the late 1970s to the late 1980s. From 1990 to 1998 however, it rapidly increased from 137 adults charged with a cultivation offence in 1990 to 757 in 1998 (almost 5 times higher).

**Figure 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Ontario, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

As a whole, the **total** number of adults charged with drug offences in Ontario decreased from 20,388 in the late 1970s to 14,354 in the last few years. The trend has generally been increasing in the last few years.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

## Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data

The assumption in comparing the number of adults charged by the police and the number of cases handled by provincial criminal courts is that a small proportion of the offenders charged may not actually appear before the courts for various reasons such as diversion. If this is the case, then the number of drug cases in courts should be slightly below the number of adults charged.

Two years of provincial criminal court data were used in the comparison (1996/97 and 1997/98). In 1996/97, there were 13,485 persons charged by the police in Ontario while there were 14,186 cases handled by Ontario provincial criminal courts. The ratio between the two numbers was 1.05, compared to 1.01 for Canada as a whole. Note that the number can be higher than 1 because the time of appearance before the courts is not the same as the time of charging by the police and some cases handled by the courts may have been cases charged by the police in previous year.

However, the situation in 1997/98 was quite different. There were 13,078 persons charged by the police in Ontario while there were 8,046 cases handled by Ontario provincial criminal courts. The ratio was 0.62, meaning that for every 100 adults charged by the police, 62 cases were handled in the provincial criminal courts. This was significantly lower than in 1996/97. The situation was similar for the rest of Canada where the ratio was only 0.68. The reason of these lower ratios is not known.

The conclusion is that for every 100 adults charged by the police in Ontario the average number of court cases is about 83, which is similar to the Canada ratio (85). However, the actual number may vary widely from about 40 to 100, depending on the jurisdiction in question.

## Methods of Projection

The statistical method chosen in the following projection is called **Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection**. The method is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The method involves the calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

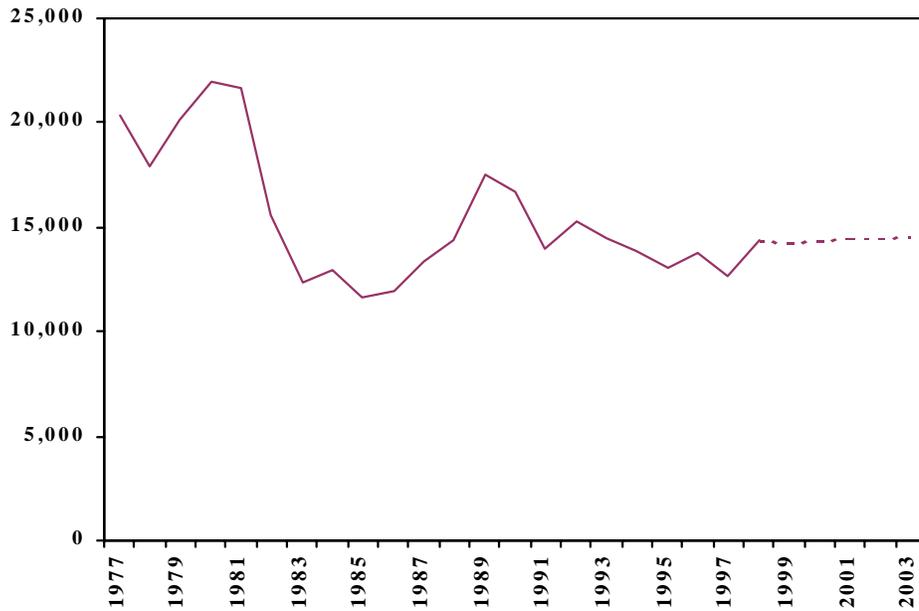
### **Results of the Projection (Figure 3, Appendix 3)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

The result of the extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police in Ontario will increase slightly in the next five years. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be about 2%, from 14,354 adults charged in 1998 to 14,583 in 2003.

**Figure 3**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Ontario, Actual (1977-1998) and Projected (1999-2003)**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

# **APPENDICES**

**Table 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Ontario, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	124	198	461	19,605	20,388
1978	114	269	400	17,105	17,888
1979	73	283	349	19,450	20,155
1980	98	316	443	21,088	21,945
1981	52	426	328	20,890	21,696
1982	94	446	315	14,726	15,581
1983	186	607	219	11,353	12,365
1984	94	832	221	11,834	12,981
1985	129	1,059	284	10,139	11,611
1986	182	1,538	241	9,953	11,914
1987	162	2,053	299	10,807	13,321
1988	202	3,079	279	10,846	14,406
1989	261	4,778	331	12,177	17,547
1990	312	4,015	373	12,047	16,747
1991	318	4,617	203	8,864	14,002
1992	406	4,976	506	9,356	15,244
1993	583	4,481	444	8,923	14,431
1994	415	4,250	439	8,717	13,821
1995	267	3,402	327	9,109	13,105
1996	244	3,291	394	9,833	13,762
1997	269	2,710	418	9,256	12,653
1998	225	3,304	806	10,019	14,354

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Ontario, 1977-1998**

Year	Possession	Trafficking	Importation	Cultivation	Total
1977	17,566	2,673	75	74	20,388
1978	15,206	2,498	103	81	17,888
1979	17,144	2,830	131	50	20,155
1980	18,799	2,996	84	66	21,945
1981	18,327	3,278	55	36	21,696
1982	12,564	2,882	81	54	15,581
1983	9,831	2,449	35	50	12,365
1984	10,579	2,316	46	40	12,981
1985	9,193	2,352	42	24	11,611
1986	9,162	2,586	134	32	11,914
1987	9,683	3,452	126	60	13,321
1988	10,746	3,459	121	80	14,406
1989	12,382	4,871	157	137	17,547
1990	11,689	4,685	198	175	16,747
1991	8,524	4,975	259	244	14,002
1992	9,426	4,927	434	457	15,244
1993	8,656	4,782	534	459	14,431
1994	9,171	3,841	400	409	13,821
1995	8,666	3,483	423	533	13,105
1996	8,747	3,884	520	611	13,762
1997	8,060	3,464	422	707	12,653
1998	9,895	3,341	361	757	14,354

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**  
**Projected number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Ontario, 1999-2003**

Year	Projected Number
1999	14,318
2000	14,385
2001	14,451
2002	14,517
2003	14,583

Projections prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.

**Profile and Projection of Drug Prosecutions**

**Jurisdiction Report**

**PRAIRIES**

**(including Manitoba, Saskatchewan,  
Alberta and the Northwest Territories)**

by

Nathalie L. Quann, M.A

Kwing Hung, Ph.D.

**Research and Statistics Division  
Department of Justice Canada**

**March 2000**



## Highlights for the Prairies

- In 1998, there were 6,236 adults charged by the police with a drug offence, accounting for 16.3% of Canada, which is slightly lower than its population share of 17%.
- From 1977 to 1998, the **number of adults charged** with a drug offence decreased by 60% from 15,454 adults charged in 1977 to 6,236 adults charged in 1998. However, the number of adults charged has been on an upward trend in the last few years.
- In terms of **types of drugs**, there had been a decrease in the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence since 1981. In contrast, there had been a large increase in the number of adults charged with cocaine offences since the late 1980s. The number of adults charged with miscellaneous drug offences experienced fluctuations in the last 20 years. However, heroin offences recorded a decrease in the period examined.
- In terms of **nature of offence**, drug possession now accounts for 56% of all adults charged with drug offence while drug trafficking accounts for 37%. The remaining 7% involve cultivation and importation of drugs. The proportions of drug possession and drug trafficking have remained stable in the last few years.
- A comparison between the number of adults charged with drug offences and the number of drug cases handled in **the Prairies provincial criminal courts** (excluding Manitoba) reveals that for every 100 adults charged, about 67 cases end up in courts.
- Based on the **extrapolation method of projection** selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase about 10% in the next five years, increasing from 6,236 in 1998 to 6,863 in 2003.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

This is an update of that project. There are two products in the project: a national report and a series of jurisdictional reports. The reports provide information on historical profile of the trend of drug offences in the past 20 years plus a five-year projection of the trend into the future.

## **Data Sources**

The profiles and projections were based on police reported data collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The period of data used was from 1977 to 1998, the latest data available. As the objective is to produce indicators of workload in drug prosecutions, data on the number of adults formally charged by the police are used.

These data were collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) which represents the crime data of every police force in Canada. The data from this survey are the most current and reliable data on drug offences that are available in Canada today. [At the request of the Agent Affairs Unit, the number of drug offences here include only those under the Narcotic Control Act (NCA), excluding those under the Food and Drugs Act (FDA).]

In addition to police data, we also look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from British Columbia, Manitoba and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Figures 1-2, Appendices 1-2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged in the Prairies with cannabis offences accounted for 70% of all drug offences in 1998, followed by cocaine (21%), and miscellaneous narcotics (9%). Less than 1% of adults were charged with a heroin offence that year.

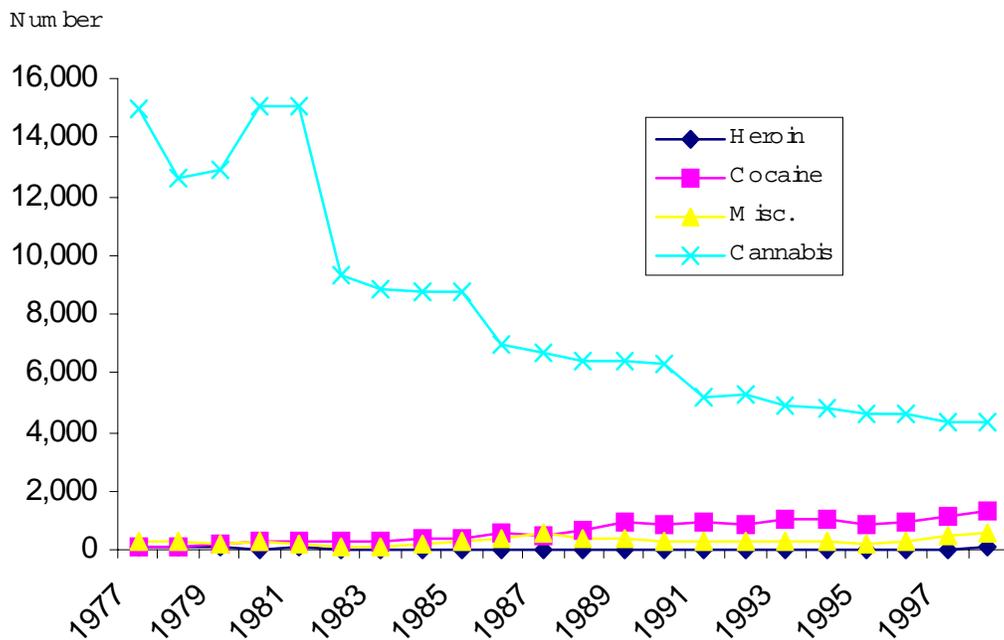
**Heroin** offences have decreased from 120 adults charged in 1977 to 51 adult charged in 1998 (-58%).

**Cocaine** offences increased dramatically from 79 adults charged in the late 1970s to 1,019 in 1993 (13 times). After a 21% decrease in 1995 (down to 806 adults charged), the number of adults charged with a cocaine offence increased to 1,279 in 1998 (+59%).

**Cannabis** offences fluctuated in late 1970s to early 1980s. From 1981 on, the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence decreased 71% from 15,079 adults charged in 1981 to 4,369 adults charged in 1998 (-71%).

**Miscellaneous** drug offences have decreased from 308 adults charged in 1977 to 115 adults charged in 1983. It slowly increased to 423 adults charged in 1989 (+268%) only to decrease to 216 adults in 1995 (-49%). The number increased again in the last few years. In 1998, there were 537 adults charged with a miscellaneous drug offence, 2.5 times the level in 1995.

**Figure 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Prairies, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

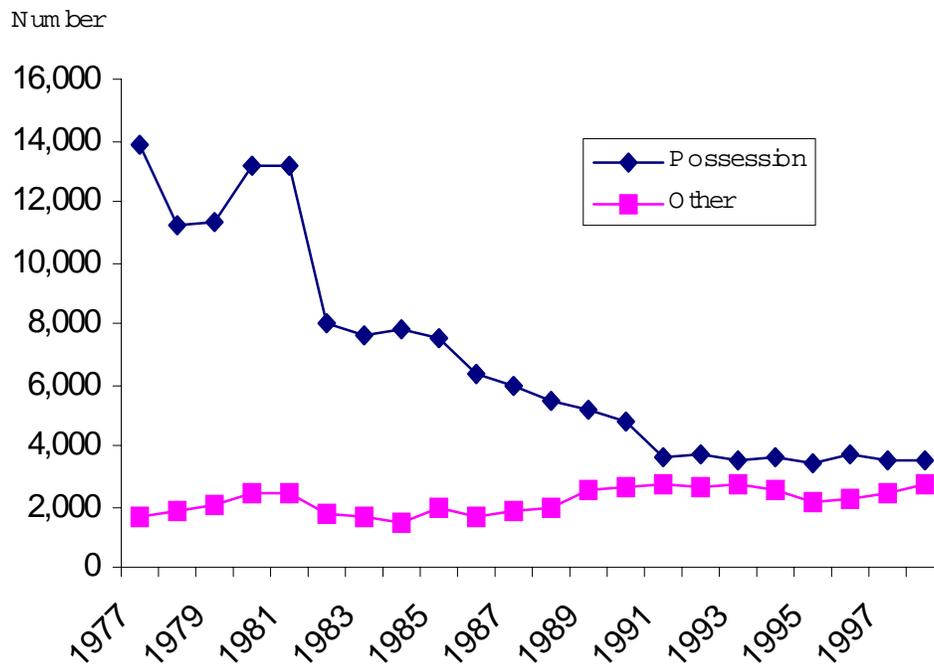
In terms of nature of offence, drug **possession** accounted for more than one half (56%) of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998; drug **trafficking** accounted for 37%; cultivation of

cannabis accounted for 7%. Drug importation offences accounted for less than 1% of the drug offences reported in 1998

The number of adults charged with drug **possession** has fluctuated in late 1970s to early 1980s. There was a large decrease in 1982, when 7,993 adults were charged with a possession offence compared to 13,175 adults in 1981(-39%). Since that year, it decreased to 3,497 adults charged in 1998 (-56%).

The number of adults charged with **trafficking** has stayed in a slow upward trend throughout the years, increasing from 1,552 adults charged in 1977 to 2,300 adults charged in 1998 (+48%). Importation of drugs has remained under 40 adults charged for the period examined with a low of 5 adults charged in 1987. The number of adults charged with a cultivation offence has increased 5 times between 1977 (65) and 1998 (417).

**Figure 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Prairies, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

As a whole, the **total** number of adults charged with drug offences in Prairies decreased from 15,454 in the late 1970s to 6,236 in 1998. The trend has generally been levelling in the last few years.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

### **Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data**

This section only examines data from Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories (only 1997/98) as Manitoba does not report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS).

The assumption in comparing the number of adults charged by the police and the number of cases handled by provincial criminal courts is that a small proportion of the offenders charged may not actually appear before the courts for various reasons such as diversion. If this is the case, then the number of drug cases in courts should be slightly below the number of adults charged.

Two years of provincial criminal court data were used in the comparison (1996/97 and 1997/98). In 1996/97, there were 4,484 persons charged by the police in the Prairies (includes data from Saskatchewan and Alberta) while there were 4,234 cases handled by Prairie provincial criminal courts. The ratio between the two numbers was 0.94, compared to 1.01 for Canada as a whole. Note that the number can be higher than 1 because the time of appearance before the courts is not the same as the time of charging by the police and some cases handled by the courts may have been cases charged by the police in previous year.

However, the situation in 1997/98 was slightly different. There were 4,691 persons charged by the police in the Prairies (includes data from Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories) while there were 3,876 cases handled by Prairies provincial criminal courts. The ratio was 0.83, meaning that for every 100 adults charged by the police, 83 cases were handled in the provincial criminal courts. The lower ratio was also evident in the rest of Canada where the ratio was only 0.68. The reason of these lower ratios is not known.

The conclusion is that for every 100 adults charged by the police in Prairies the average number of court cases is about 67, which is slightly lower than the Canada ratio (85). However, the actual number may vary widely from about 40 to 100, depending on the jurisdiction in question.

### **Methods of Projection**

The statistical method chosen in the following projection is called **Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection**. The method is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to

project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The method involves the calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

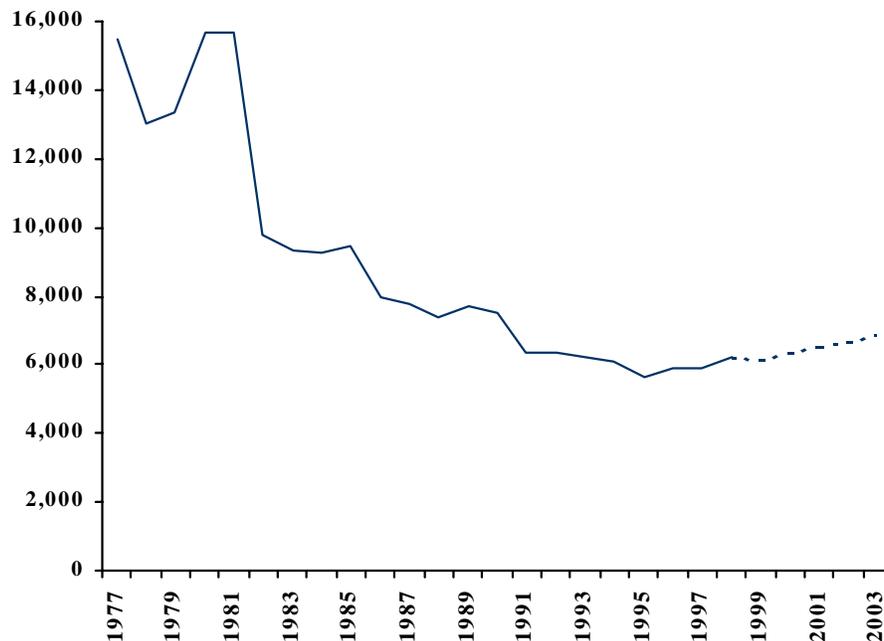
**Results of the Projection (Figure 3, Appendix 3)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

The result of the extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police in the Prairies will increase slightly in the next five years. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be about 12%, from 6,236 adults charged in 1998 to 6,863 in 2003.

**Figure 3**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Prairies, Actual (1977-1998) and Projected (1999-2003)**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

# **APPENDICES**

**Table 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Prairies, 1977-1998**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	120	79	308	14,947	15,454
1978	89	66	270	12,618	13,043
1979	76	155	177	12,917	13,325
1980	29	322	249	15,062	15,662
1981	60	310	196	15,079	15,645
1982	25	271	141	9,347	9,784
1983	27	327	115	8,833	9,302
1984	20	342	167	8,719	9,248
1985	16	412	263	8,737	9,428
1986	13	582	372	7,011	7,978
1987	8	514	574	6,676	7,772
1988	16	615	379	6,364	7,374
1989	28	905	423	6,372	7,728
1990	7	813	319	6,348	7,487
1991	15	924	260	5,144	6,343
1992	3	862	276	5,227	6,368
1993	40	1,019	263	4,922	6,244
1994	14	1,017	261	4,771	6,063
1995	17	806	216	4,578	5,617
1996	35	955	263	4,622	5,875
1997	44	1,112	433	4,324	5,913
1998	51	1,279	537	4,369	6,236

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Prairies, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Possession</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Importation</b>	<b>Cultivation</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	13,821	1,552	16	65	15,454
1978	11,215	1,725	34	69	13,043
1979	11,284	1,979	32	30	13,325
1980	13,196	2,404	21	41	15,662
1981	13,175	2,402	18	50	15,645
1982	7,993	1,738	15	38	9,784
1983	7,640	1,597	23	42	9,302
1984	7,765	1,403	32	48	9,248
1985	7,478	1,892	12	46	9,428
1986	6,303	1,617	12	46	7,978
1987	5,937	1,766	5	64	7,772
1988	5,447	1,818	21	88	7,374
1989	5,200	2,418	9	101	7,728
1990	4,821	2,501	37	128	7,487
1991	3,657	2,490	11	185	6,343
1992	3,753	2,438	6	171	6,368
1993	3,541	2,450	6	247	6,244
1994	3,571	2,245	7	240	6,063
1995	3,457	1,955	8	197	5,617
1996	3,672	1,995	6	202	5,875
1997	3,496	2,091	14	312	5,913
1998	3,497	2,300	22	417	6,236

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**  
**Projected number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Prairies, 1999-2003**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Number</b>
1999	6,164
2000	6,340
2001	6,514
2002	6,688
2003	6,863

Projections prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.

**Profile and Projection of Drug Prosecutions**  
**Jurisdiction Report**  
**MANITOBA**

by  
Nathalie L. Quann, M.A.  
Kwing Hung, Ph.D.

**Research and Statistics Division**  
**Department of Justice Canada**

**March 2000**



## **Highlights for Manitoba**

- In 1998, there were 1,297 adults charged by the police with a drug offence, accounting for 3.4% of Canada, slightly lower than its population share of 3.8%.
- From 1977 to 1998, the **number of adults charged** with a drug offence decreased by 37% from 2,051 adults charged in 1977 to 1,297 adults charged in 1998. However, the trend has been stable in the last few years.
- In terms of **types of drugs**, the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence in the late 1970s to early 1980s were fairly high. It started decreasing from 1981 on, to attain its lowest in 1993. In contrast, there had been a large increase in the number of adults charged with cocaine offences in the late 1980s. The number of adults charged with miscellaneous drug offences has been on an upward trend until 1989, and decreased since that year. Heroin offences have remained fairly low.
- In terms of **nature of offence**, drug possession now accounts for 62% of all adults charged with drug offence. The remaining 38% involve trafficking, cultivation and importation of drugs. The proportion of drug trafficking has slowly increased over the years while drug possession has slowly decreased.
- Based on the **extrapolation method of projection** selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase about 11% in the next five years, increasing from 1,297 in 1998 to 1,436 in 2003.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

This is an update of that project. There are two products in the project: a national report and a series of jurisdictional reports. The reports provide information on historical profile of the trend of drug offences in the past 20 years plus a five-year projection of the trend into the future.

## **Data Sources**

The profiles and projections were based on police reported data collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The period of data used was from 1977 to 1998, the latest data available. As the objective is to produce indicators of workload in drug prosecutions, data on the number of adults formally charged by the police are used.

These data were collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) which represents the crime data of every police force in Canada. The data from this survey are the most current and reliable data on drug offences that are available in Canada today. [At the request of the Agent Affairs Unit, the number of drug offences here include only those under the Narcotic Control Act (NCA), excluding those under the Food and Drugs Act (FDA).]

In addition to police data, we also look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from Manitoba, Manitoba and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Figures 1-2, Appendices 1-2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged in Manitoba with cannabis offences accounted for 78% of all drug offences in 1998, followed by cocaine (19%). The remaining 3% were for miscellaneous narcotics and heroin.

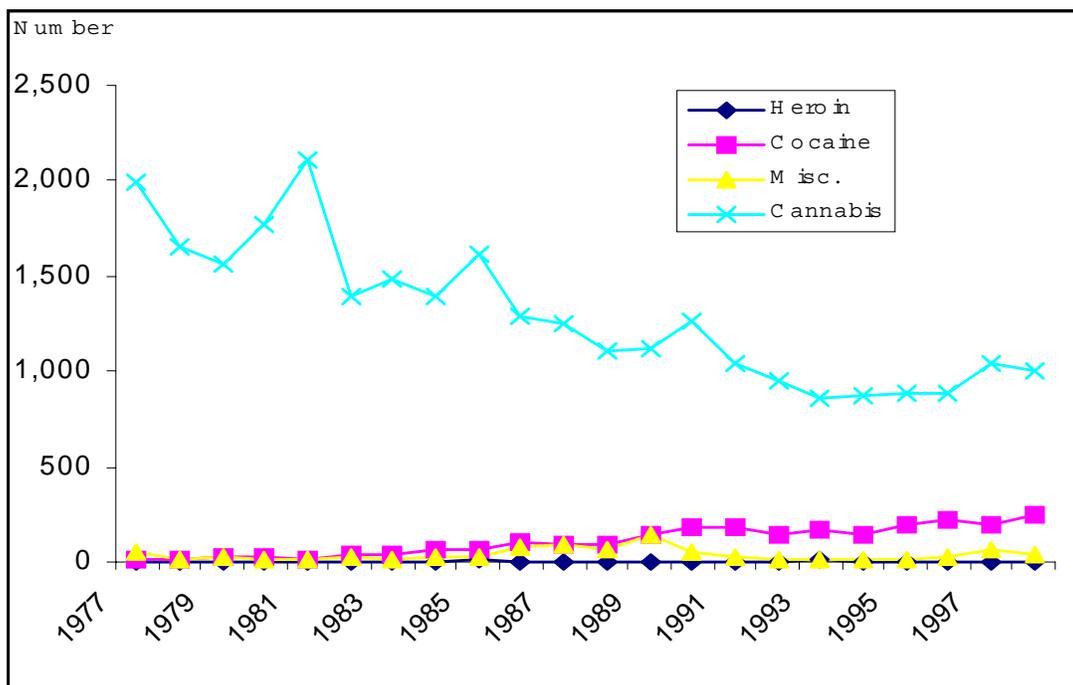
**Heroin** offences in 1977 were similar to 1998. It remained under 8 adults accused throughout most of the last 20 years. In 1993 however, the number of adults charged increased to 17 (from 0 in the previous year).

**Cocaine** offences increased dramatically from 11 adults charged in the late 1970s to 245 in 1998 (22 times). The biggest increase was reported in the late 1980s and the number of adults charged has remained over 100 adults ever since.

**Cannabis** offences have started their downward trend in the late 1970s to early 1980s, only to increase 19% in 1981 to 2,109 adults charged (from 1,766 the previous year). Since then, the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence has decreased consistently over the years to reach its lowest in 1993 (856 adults charged). It has levelled off over in the last few years.

**Miscellaneous** drug offences have remained fairly stable in the late 1970s to 1980s. From the mid-1980s, it started increasing from 27 in 1985 to 75 in 1986 (+178%). After reaching its peak level of 140 adults charged in 1989, it slowly decreased to 42 adults charged in 1998 (-70%).

**Figure 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Manitoba, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

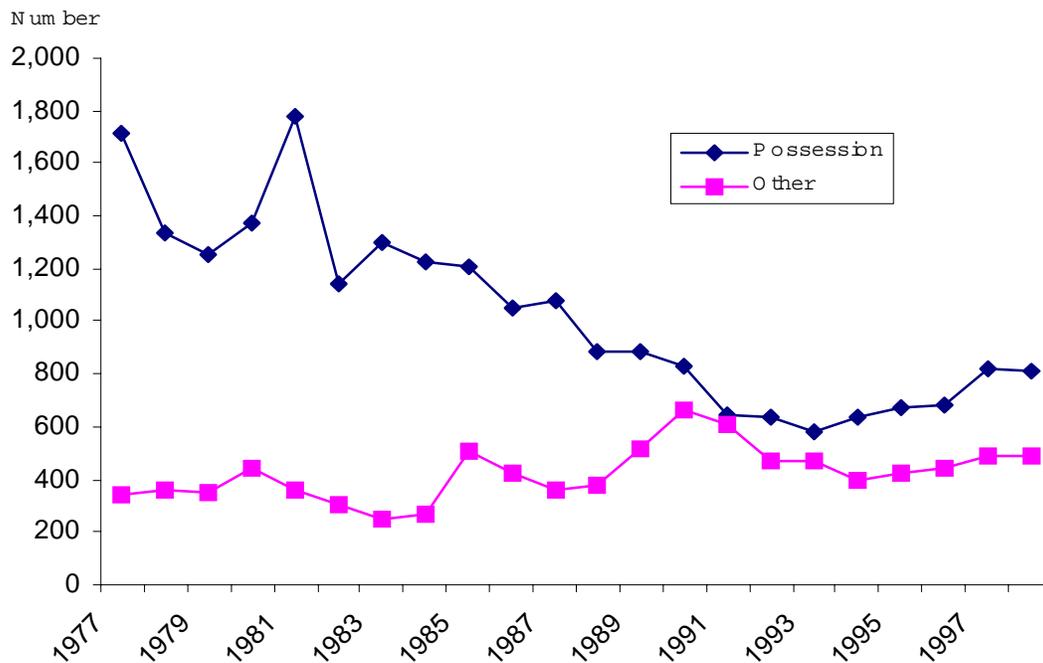
In terms of nature of offence, drug **possession** accounted for almost two-thirds (62%) of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998; drug **trafficking** accounted for 24%; cultivation of cannabis accounted for 14%. There were only 5 adults charged with drug importation offences in 1998

The number of adults charged with drug **possession** has decreased in the late 1970s to early 1980s only to increase 30% in 1981 (from 1,372 adults charged in 1980 to 1,782 in 1981). Since 1981, it decreased consistently over the years, to a low of 584 adults charged in 1993. However, a large 38% increase has been reported in 1998 where 807 adults were charged for drug possession.

In contrast, the number of adults charged with **trafficking** has experienced threefold increases over the 20 years period examined, characterized by a few large increases: 29% increase in 1980, 102% increase in 1985, and 29% increase in 1990. Since then, the number of adults charged with a trafficking offence has been decreasing to 309 adults charged in 1998.

The number of adults charged with a cultivation offence has remained fairly stable from the late 1970s to mid-1980s. From 1989 to 1998 however, it rapidly increased from 17 adults charged with a cultivation offence in 1989 to 176 in 1998 (10 times higher).

**Figure 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Manitoba, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

As a whole, the **total** number of adults charged with drug offences in Manitoba decreased from 2,051 in the late 1970s to 1,297 in 1998. The trend has generally been levelling in the last few years.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

### **Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data**

Because Manitoba does not report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS), it was therefore impossible to make the comparison between police and courts data for that jurisdiction.

### **Methods of Projection**

The statistical method chosen in the following projection is called **Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection**. The method is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The method involves the calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

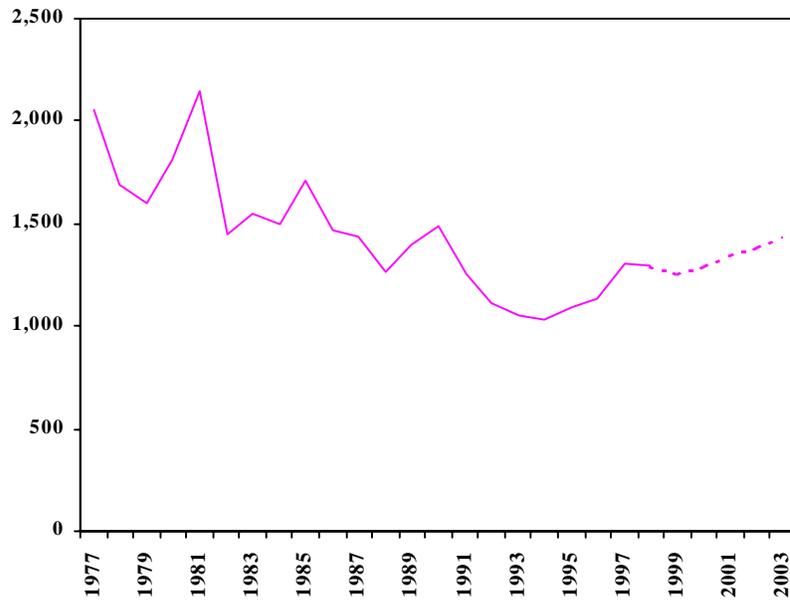
### **Results of the Projection (Figure 3, Appendix 3)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because of small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

The result of the extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police in Manitoba will increase in the next five years. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be about 11%, from 1,297 adults charged in 1998 to 1,436 in 2003.

**Figure 3**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Manitoba, Actual (1977-1998) and Projected (1999-2003)**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

# **APPENDICES**

**Table 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Manitoba, 1977-1998**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	1	11	47	1,992	2,051
1978	1	16	19	1,657	1,693
1979	2	22	20	1,559	1,603
1980	3	24	18	1,766	1,811
1981	6	13	14	2,109	2,142
1982	2	34	23	1,389	1,448
1983	0	45	15	1,485	1,545
1984	2	71	32	1,393	1,498
1985	7	61	27	1,613	1,708
1986	0	103	75	1,290	1,468
1987	2	86	96	1,249	1,433
1988	1	93	69	1,102	1,265
1989	2	139	140	1,114	1,395
1990	0	176	49	1,267	1,492
1991	0	188	21	1,044	1,253
1992	0	140	19	950	1,109
1993	17	164	13	856	1,050
1994	2	149	14	869	1,034
1995	1	200	10	880	1,091
1996	2	216	25	886	1,129
1997	1	196	63	1,046	1,306
1998	2	245	42	1,008	1,297

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Manitoba, 1977-1998**

Year	Possession	Trafficking	Importation	Cultivation	Total
1977	1,710	333	1	7	2,051
1978	1,333	333	15	12	1,693
1979	1,249	333	18	3	1,603
1980	1,372	430	4	5	1,811
1981	1,782	358	0	2	2,142
1982	1,140	307	0	1	1,448
1983	1,299	238	5	3	1,545
1984	1,228	248	17	5	1,498
1985	1,203	500	3	2	1,708
1986	1,047	413	3	5	1,468
1987	1,078	344	0	11	1,433
1988	884	370	3	8	1,265
1989	881	496	1	17	1,395
1990	828	642	0	22	1,492
1991	642	572	2	37	1,253
1992	636	434	1	38	1,109
1993	584	421	3	42	1,050
1994	639	345	5	45	1,034
1995	669	364	3	55	1,091
1996	686	372	1	70	1,129
1997	816	338	3	149	1,306
1998	807	309	5	176	1,297

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**  
**Projected number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Manitoba, 1999-2003**

Year	Projected Number
1999	1,251
2000	1,298
2001	1,344
2002	1,390
2003	1,436

Projections prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.

**Profile and Projection of Drug Prosecutions**  
**Jurisdiction Report**  
**SASKATCHEWAN**

by  
Nathalie L. Quann, M.A.  
Kwing Hung, Ph.D.

**Research and Statistics Division**  
**Department of Justice Canada**

**March 2000**



## Highlights for Saskatchewan

- In 1998, there were 1,285 adults charged by the police with a drug offence, accounting for 3.4% of Canada, same as its population share of 3.4%.
- From 1977 to 1998, the **number of adults charged** with a drug offence decreased by 51% from 2,627 adults charged in 1977 to 1,285 adults charged in 1998. However, the trend has been stable in the last few years.
- In terms of **types of drugs**, the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence has decreased significantly over the years. In contrast, there had been a large increase in the number of adults charged with cocaine offences in the late 1980s. The number of adults charged with miscellaneous drug offences has fluctuated in the 20 year period examined. Heroin offences have remained under 20 adults charged over the past 20 years.
- In terms of **nature of offence**, drug possession now accounts for 55% of all adults charged with drug offence. The remaining 45% involve trafficking, cultivation and importation of drugs. The proportion of drug trafficking has remained stable until 1991 but is now on a slow upward trend.
- A comparison between the number of adults charged with drug offences and the number of drug cases handled in **Saskatchewan provincial criminal courts** reveals that for every 100 adults charged, about 60 cases end up in courts.
- Based on the **extrapolation method of projection** selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase about 21% in the next five years, increasing from 1,285 in 1998 to 1,561 in 2003.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

This is an update of that project. There are two products in the project: a national report and a series of jurisdictional reports. The reports provide information on historical profile of the trend of drug offences in the past 20 years plus a five-year projection of the trend into the future.

## **Data Sources**

The profiles and projections were based on police reported data collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The period of data used was from 1977 to 1998, the latest data available. As the objective is to produce indicators of workload in drug prosecutions, data on the number of adults formally charged by the police are used.

These data were collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) which represents the crime data of every police force in Canada. The data from this survey are the most current and reliable data on drug offences that are available in Canada today. [At the request of the Agent Affairs Unit, the number of drug offences here include only those under the Narcotic Control Act (NCA), excluding those under the Food and Drugs Act (FDA).]

In addition to police data, we also look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Figures 1-2, Appendices 1-2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged in Saskatchewan with cannabis offences accounted for 73% of all drug offences in 1998, followed by miscellaneous drugs (14%) and cocaine (11%). The remaining 2% were for heroin.

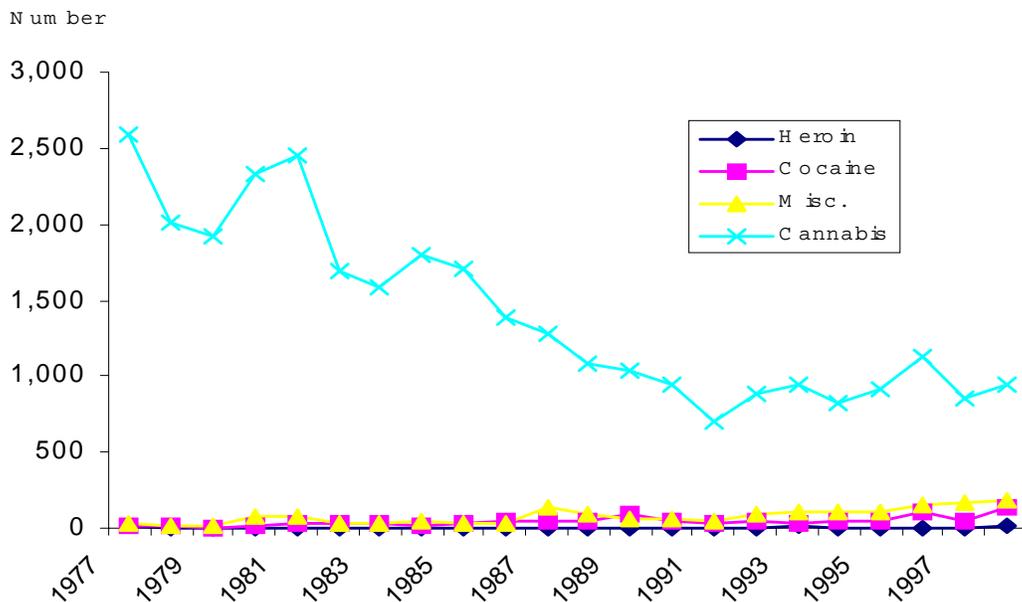
**Heroin** offences were relatively rare. They increased from 8 adults charged in 1977 to 18 in 1998.

**Cocaine** offences increased dramatically from 8 adults charged in the late 1970s to 142 in 1998 (18 times). The biggest increase was reported in the early 1990s and the number of adults charged has remained over 150 adults ever since.

**Cannabis** offences have started their downward trend in the early 1980s. Since then, the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence has decreased consistently over the years to reach its lowest in 1994 (821 adults charged). It has levelled off over in the last few years.

**Miscellaneous** drug offences have remained fairly stable in the late 1970s to the mid-1980s. From 1987, 3 times more adults were charged compared to the previous year (139 in 1987 compared to 38 in 1986). The number of adults charged slowly decreased for the next few years only to increase to 182 adults charged in 1998.

**Figure 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Saskatchewan, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

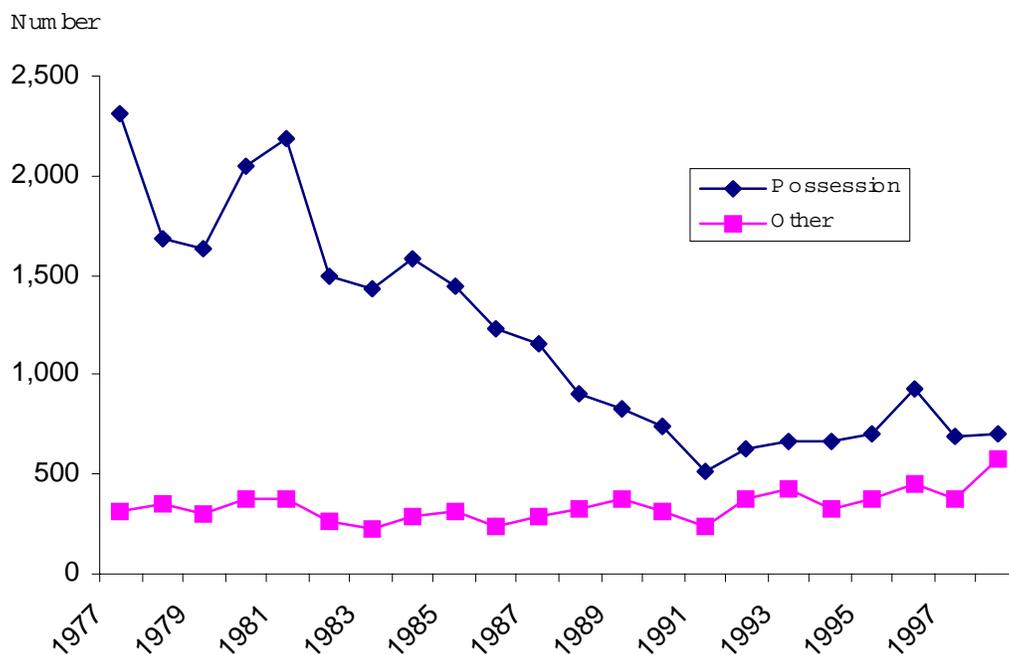
In terms of nature of offence, drug **possession** accounted for more than one-half (55%) of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998; drug **trafficking** accounted for 38%; cultivation of cannabis accounted for 6%. There were only 8 adults charged with drug importation offences in 1998.

The number of adults charged with drug **possession** has decreased in the late 1970s but increased 25% in 1980 (from 1,637 adults charged in 1979 to 2,051 in 1980). Since 1981, it decreased consistently over the years, to a low of 519 adults charged in 1991. In the last few years, there were slow increases, with the exception of an exceptional high year in 1996.

In contrast, the number of adults charged with **trafficking** has remained in a slow upward trend. The 1998 total of 488 adults charged was 59% higher than the 309 adults in 1998.

The number of adults charged with a cultivation offence has remained fairly stable slow upward trend from the late 1970s to the mid-1990s. Until 1996, it remained under 50 adults charged. However, there was a large increase in 1998 (60% increase in one year).

**Figure 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Saskatchewan, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

As a whole, the **total** number of adults charged with drug offences in Saskatchewan decreased from 2,627 in the late 1970s to 1,285 in 1998. The trend has generally been levelling in the last few years.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

### **Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data**

The assumption in comparing the number of adults charged by the police and the number of cases handled by provincial criminal courts is that a small proportion of the offenders charged may not actually appear before the courts for various reasons such as diversion. If this is the case, then the number of drug cases in courts should be slightly below the number of adults charged.

Two years of provincial criminal court data were used in the comparison (1996/97 and 1997/98). In 1996/97, there were 1,309 persons charged by the police in Saskatchewan while there were 973 cases handled by Saskatchewan provincial criminal courts. The ratio between the two numbers was 0.74, compared to 1.01 for Canada as a whole. Note that the number can be higher than 1 because the time of appearance before the courts is not the same as the time of charging by the police and some cases handled by the courts may have been cases charged by the police in previous year.

However, the situation in 1997/98 was quite different. There were 1,125 persons charged by the police in Saskatchewan while there were 483 cases handled by Saskatchewan provincial criminal courts. The ratio was 0.43, meaning that for every 100 adults charged by the police, 43 cases were handled in the provincial criminal courts. This was significantly lower than in 1996/97. The ratio was lower than the rest of Canada where the ratio was 0.68. The reason of these lower ratios is not known.

The conclusion is that for every 100 adults charged by the police in Saskatchewan the average number of court cases is about 59, compared to 85 in Canada. However, the actual number may vary widely from about 40 to 100, depending on the jurisdiction in question.

### **Methods of Projection**

The statistical method chosen in the following projection is called **Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection**. The method is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The method involves the calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

### **Results of the Projection (Figure 3, Appendix 3)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

The result of the extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police in Saskatchewan will increase in the next five years. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be about 21%, from 1,285 adults charged in 1998 to 1,561 in 2003.

**Figure 3**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Saskatchewan, Actual (1977-1998) and Projected (1999-2003)**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

# **APPENDICES**

**Table 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Saskatchewan, 1977-1998**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	8	8	27	2,584	2,627
1978	6	8	18	2,006	2,038
1979	3	3	20	1,913	1,939
1980	0	17	76	2,329	2,422
1981	4	33	72	2,459	2,568
1982	3	23	36	1,686	1,748
1983	0	36	33	1,588	1,657
1984	0	22	46	1,802	1,870
1985	0	33	27	1,701	1,761
1986	1	45	38	1,386	1,470
1987	0	39	139	1,273	1,451
1988	1	52	94	1,082	1,229
1989	1	91	68	1,040	1,200
1990	2	45	66	940	1,053
1991	0	25	41	697	763
1992	0	39	87	876	1,002
1993	13	34	103	944	1,094
1994	5	50	108	821	984
1995	3	40	114	916	1,073
1996	5	100	159	1,124	1,388
1997	2	46	169	854	1,071
1998	18	142	182	943	1,285

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Saskatchewan, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Possession</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Importation</b>	<b>Cultivation</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	2,309	307	2	9	2,627
1978	1,683	339	2	14	2,038
1979	1,637	290	5	7	1,939
1980	2,051	355	3	13	2,422
1981	2,190	353	2	23	2,568
1982	1,490	232	3	23	1,748
1983	1,435	200	9	13	1,657
1984	1,581	257	2	30	1,870
1985	1,445	286	4	26	1,761
1986	1,233	213	6	18	1,470
1987	1,162	265	2	22	1,451
1988	899	310	1	19	1,229
1989	824	350	1	25	1,200
1990	745	284	1	23	1,053
1991	519	226	2	16	763
1992	622	360	0	20	1,002
1993	664	390	1	39	1,094
1994	661	288	0	35	984
1995	699	344	0	30	1,073
1996	933	419	0	36	1,388
1997	692	329	0	50	1,071
1998	708	488	8	81	1,285

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**  
**Projected number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Saskatchewan, 1999-2003**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Number</b>
1999	1,258
2000	1,334
2001	1,409
2002	1,485
2003	1,561

Projections prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.

**Profile and Projection of Drug Prosecutions**  
**Jurisdiction Report**  
**ALBERTA**

by  
Nathalie L. Quann, M.A.  
Kwing Hung, Ph.D.

**Research and Statistics Division**  
**Department of Justice Canada**

**March 2000**



## Highlights for Alberta

- In 1998, there were 3,504 adults charged by the police with a drug offence, accounting for 9.2% of Canada, same as its population share of 9.6%.
- From 1977 to 1998, the **number of adults charged** with a drug offence decreased by 67% from 10,619 adults charged in 1977 to 3,504 adults charged in 1998. However, the trend has been levelling in the last few years.
- In terms of **types of drugs**, there had been a stable number of adults charged with a cannabis offence in the late 1970s – early 1980s. Since 1982, it has been on a downward trend. In contrast, there had been a large increase in the number of adults charged with cocaine offences in the mid- 1980s. A slight increase has also been reported in the number of adults charged with miscellaneous drug offences in the past 20 years. However, heroin offences recorded a considerable decrease over the past 20 years.
- In terms of **nature of offence**, drug possession now accounts for 54% of all adults charged with drug offences. The remaining 46% involve trafficking, cultivation and importation of drugs. The proportion of drug possession has remained rather stable in the last few years.
- A comparison between the number of adults charged with drug offences and the number of drug cases handled in **Alberta provincial criminal courts** reveals that for every 100 adults charged, about the same number of cases end up in courts.
- Based on the **extrapolation method of projection** selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase about 4% in the next five years, increasing from 3,504 in 1998 to 3,658 in 2003.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

This is an update of that project. There are two products in the project: a national report and a series of jurisdictional reports. The reports provide information on historical profile of the trend of drug offences in the past 20 years plus a five-year projection of the trend into the future.

## **Data Sources**

The profiles and projections were based on police reported data collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The period of data used was from 1977 to 1998, the latest data available. As the objective is to produce indicators of workload in drug prosecutions, data on the number of adults formally charged by the police are used.

These data were collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) which represents the crime data of every police force in Canada. The data from this survey are the most current and reliable data on drug offences that are available in Canada today. [At the request of the Agent Affairs Unit, the number of drug offences here include only those under the Narcotic Control Act (NCA), excluding those under the Food and Drugs Act (FDA).]

In addition to police data, we look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from British Columbia, Manitoba and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Figures 1-2, Appendices 1-2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged in Alberta with cannabis offences accounted for 65% of all drug offences in 1998, followed by cocaine (25%), and miscellaneous narcotics (9%). The remaining 1% was for heroin.

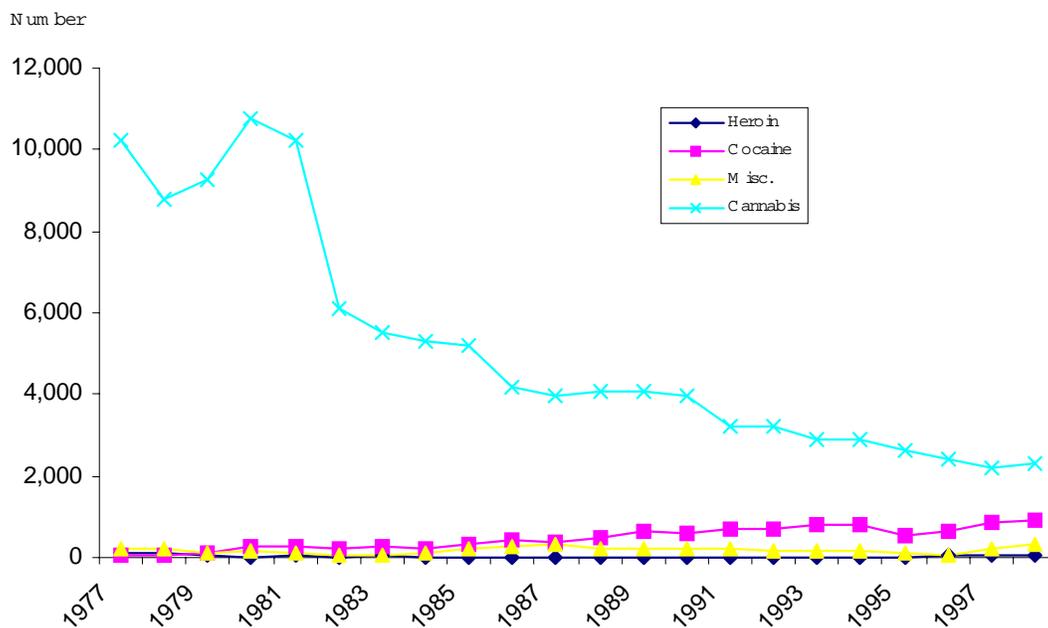
**Heroin** offences decreased from 111 adults charged in the late 1970s to 30 in 1998. The total number of adults charged was under 100 adults from 1978 on.

**Cocaine** offences increased rapidly from 59 adults charged in the late 1970s to 813 adults charged in 1993, after which it decreased slightly for a few years. However, it attained its peak in 1998, where 886 adults were charged with a cocaine offence.

**Cannabis** offences have remained fairly stable from the end of the 1970s to early 1980s (around 10,000 adults charged). In 1982, the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence experienced an important decrease (-40% compared to 1981) and has been on a downward trend ever since (from 6,103 adults charged in 1982 to 2,277 adults charged in 1998).

**Miscellaneous** drug offences stayed at below 300 adults charged between 1977 and 1986. It increased 31% in 1987, only to decrease until 1997 (from 338 in 1987 to 196 in 1997). Within the last year, miscellaneous drug offences increased to 311 adults charged (+59%).

**Figure 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Alberta, 1977-1998**



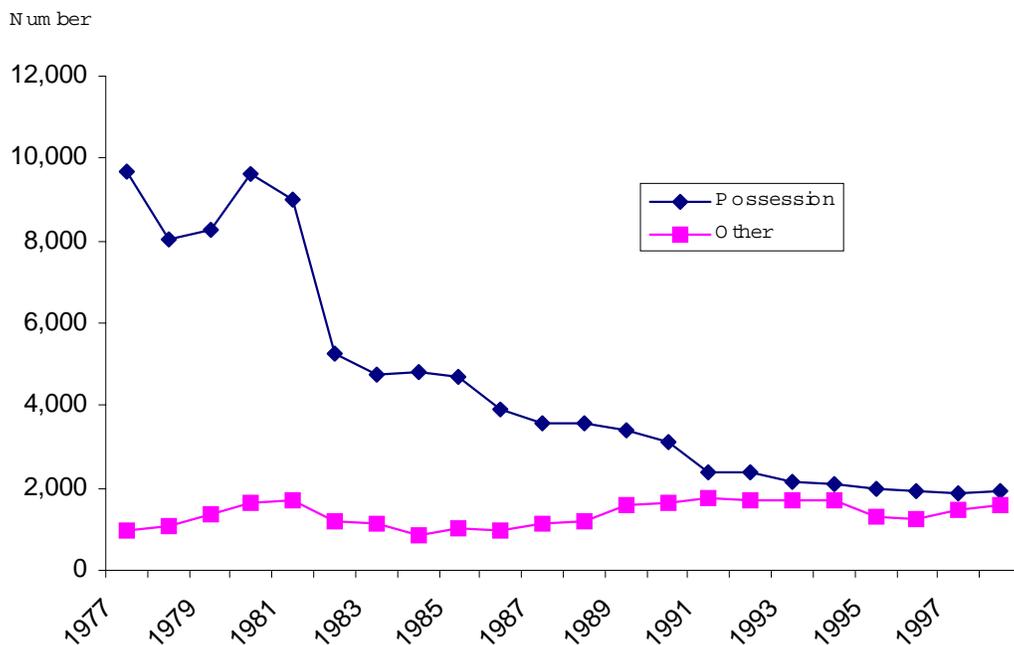
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

In terms of nature of offence, drug **possession** accounted more than one-half (54%) of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998; drug **trafficking** accounted for 41%; cultivation of cannabis accounted for 5%. There were only 8 drug importation offences reported in 1998

The number of adults charged with drug **possession** has levelled off in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but has decreased 42% from 1981 to 1982. From then on, it slowly decreased, from 5,242 adults charged in 1982 to 1,900 in 1998 (-64%).

In contrast, the number of adults charged with **trafficking** has increased 62% over the 20 years period examined, from 890 adults charged in 1977 to 1,438 in 1998. Importation of drugs has remained under the 20 adults charged from 1977 to 1990, increased to 36 in 1991, only to decrease to 8 adults charged in 1998 (-78%). The number of adults charged with a cultivation offence has remained fairly stable from the late 1970s to the late 1980s. From 1990 to 1998 however, it rapidly increased from 83 adults charged with a cultivation offence in 1990 to 158 in 1998 (+90%).

**Figure 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Alberta, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

As a whole, the **total** number of adults charged with drug offences in Alberta decreased from 10,619 in the late 1970s to 3,504 in 1998. The trend has generally been levelling in the last few years.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

### **Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data**

The assumption in comparing the number of adults charged by the police and the number of cases handled by provincial criminal courts is that a small proportion of the offenders charged may not actually appear before the courts for various reasons such as diversion. If this is the case, then the number of drug cases in courts should be slightly below the number of adults charged.

Two years of provincial criminal court data were used in the comparison (1996/97 and 1997/98). In 1996/97, there were 3,175 persons charged by the police in Alberta while there were 3,261 cases handled by Alberta provincial criminal courts. The ratio between the two numbers was 1.03, compared to 1.01 for Canada as a whole. Note that the number can be higher than 1 because the time of appearance before the courts is not the same as the time of charging by the police and some cases handled by the courts may have been cases charged by the police in previous year.

However, the situation in 1997/98 was similar. There were 3,349 persons charged by the police in Alberta while there were 3,303 cases handled by Alberta provincial criminal courts. The ratio was 0.99, meaning that for every 100 adults charged by the police, 99 cases were handled in the provincial criminal courts. The situation was quite different for the rest of Canada where the ratio was only 0.68. The reason of these lower ratios is not known.

The conclusion is that for every 100 adults charged by the police in Alberta the average number of court cases is about 100, which is different from the Canada ratio (85). However, the actual number may vary widely from about 40 to 100, depending on the jurisdiction in question.

### **Methods of Projection**

The statistical method chosen in the following projection is called **Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection**. The method is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The method involves the calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

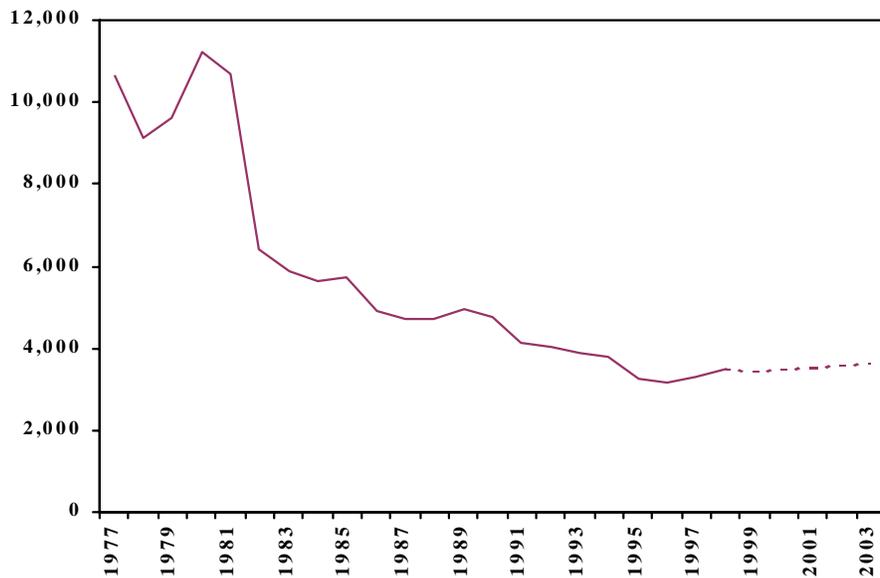
### **Results of the Projection (Figure 3, Appendix 3)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

The result of the extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police in Alberta will increase slightly in the next five years, by about 1% per year. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be about 4%, from 3,504 adults charged in 1998 to 3,658 in 2003.

**Figure 3**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Alberta, Actual (1977-1998) and Projected (1999-2003)**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

# **APPENDICES**

**Table 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Alberta, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	111	59	234	10,215	10,619
1978	81	42	232	8,780	9,135
1979	71	126	127	9,276	9,600
1980	26	281	150	10,759	11,216
1981	47	264	107	10,257	10,675
1982	19	209	79	6,103	6,410
1983	27	242	65	5,534	5,868
1984	17	239	88	5,313	5,657
1985	9	311	209	5,192	5,721
1986	12	431	259	4,181	4,883
1987	6	386	338	3,991	4,721
1988	14	456	213	4,051	4,734
1989	25	665	215	4,072	4,977
1990	5	583	203	3,957	4,748
1991	15	696	198	3,219	4,128
1992	3	674	170	3,203	4,050
1993	10	813	145	2,898	3,866
1994	7	797	139	2,870	3,813
1995	13	553	92	2,601	3,259
1996	28	628	78	2,400	3,134
1997	41	844	196	2,216	3,297
1998	30	886	311	2,277	3,504

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Alberta, 1977-1998**

Year	Possession	Trafficking	Importation	Cultivation	Total
1977	9,669	890	13	47	10,619
1978	8,049	1,028	17	41	9,135
1979	8,262	1,309	9	20	9,600
1980	9,602	1,577	14	23	11,216
1981	8,989	1,645	16	25	10,675
1982	5,242	1,143	12	13	6,410
1983	4,727	1,106	9	26	5,868
1984	4,806	828	10	13	5,657
1985	4,706	993	4	18	5,721
1986	3,918	940	3	22	4,883
1987	3,592	1,096	3	30	4,721
1988	3,565	1,093	17	59	4,734
1989	3,388	1,525	7	57	4,977
1990	3,117	1,512	36	83	4,748
1991	2,386	1,607	7	128	4,128
1992	2,375	1,557	5	113	4,050
1993	2,141	1,560	2	163	3,866
1994	2,121	1,530	2	160	3,813
1995	1,960	1,182	5	112	3,259
1996	1,909	1,125	5	95	3,134
1997	1,846	1,327	11	113	3,297
1998	1,900	1,438	8	158	3,504

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**  
**Projected number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Alberta, 1999-2003**

Year	Projected Number
1999	3,448
2000	3,500
2001	3,553
2002	3,605
2003	3,658

Projections prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.

**Profile and Projection of Drug Prosecutions**  
**Jurisdiction Report**  
**PACIFIC REGION**  
**(including British Columbia and the Yukon)**

by  
Nathalie L. Quann, M.A.  
Kwing Hung, Ph.D.

**Research and Statistics Division**  
**Department of Justice Canada**

**March 2000**



## Highlights for Pacific Region

- In 1998, there were 7,108 adults charged by the police with a drug offence, accounting for 18.6% of Canada, which is higher than its population share of 13.3%.
- From 1977 to 1998, the **number of adults charged** with a drug offence decreased by 16% from 8,448 adults charged in 1977 to 7,108 adults charged in 1998. However, the trend has been stable in the last few years.
- In terms of **types of drugs**, there had been a downward trend in the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence in the late 1970s. In contrast, there had been a large increase in the number of adults charged with cocaine offences since the late 1980s. The number of adults charged with miscellaneous drug offences has been on an upward trend until 1992, and decreased dramatically since that year. Heroin offences recorded a decrease in the early 1980s to attain its lowest level in 1987 but have since increased steadily.
- In terms of **nature of offence**, drug trafficking now accounts for 47% of all adults charged with drug offence while drug possession accounts for 35%. The remaining 18% involve cultivation and importation of drugs. The proportion of drug trafficking has slowly increased in the last few years while drug possession has slowly decreased.
- Based on the **extrapolation method of projection** selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase by about 5% in the next five years, increasing from 7,108 in 1998 to 7,443 in 2003.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

This is an update of that project. There are two products in the project: a national report and a series of jurisdictional reports. The reports provide information on historical profile of the trend of drug offences in the past 20 years plus a five-year projection of the trend into the future.

## **Data Sources**

The profiles and projections were based on police reported data collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The period of data used was from 1977 to 1998, the latest data available. As the objective is to produce indicators of workload in drug prosecutions, data on the number of adults formally charged by the police are used.

These data were collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) which represents the crime data of every police force in Canada. The data from this survey are the most current and reliable data on drug offences that are available in Canada today. [At the request of the Agent Affairs Unit, the number of drug offences here include only those under the Narcotic Control Act (NCA), excluding those under the Food and Drugs Act (FDA).]

In addition to police data, we also look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from British Columbia, Manitoba and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Figures 1-2, Appendices 1-2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged in the Pacific Region with cannabis offences accounted for 48% of all drug offences in 1998, followed by cocaine (39%), and heroin (10%). The remaining 3% were for miscellaneous narcotics.

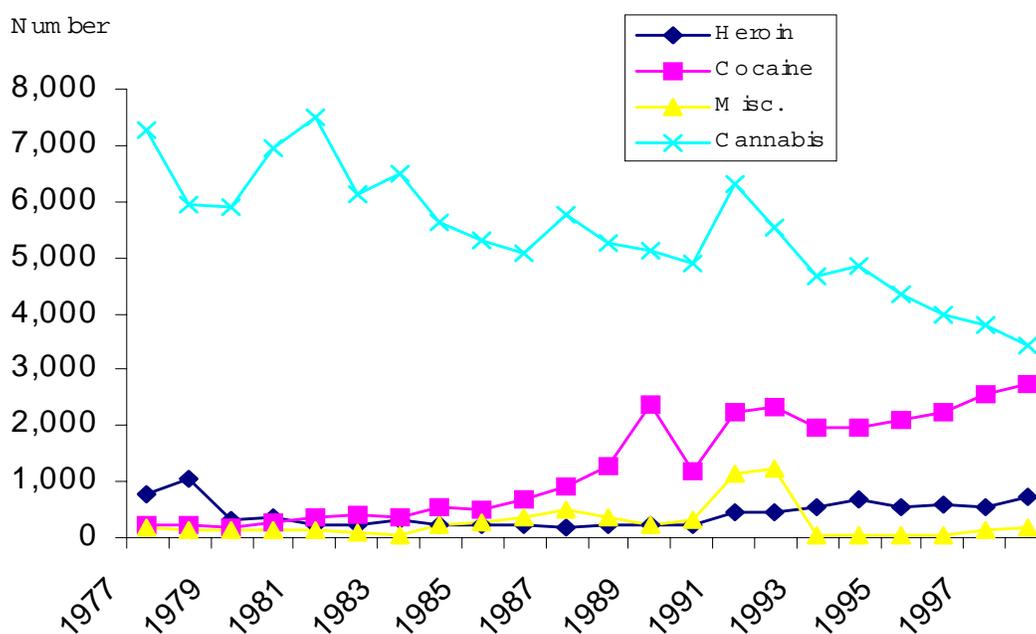
**Heroin** offences in 1977 were similar to 1998. It decreased from 763 adults charged in the late 1970s to around 200 in mid-1980s but has increased to 737 in 1998.

**Cocaine** offences increased dramatically from 209 adults charged in the late 1970s to 2,748 in 1998 (13 times). The biggest increases were reported between 1988 to 1989 (+84%), and once again between 1990 and 1991 (+92%).

**Cannabis** offences have remained fairly stable from the end of the 1970s to early 1980s. From 1982 on, the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence decreased 54% from the number of adults charged in 1981 (from 7,509 in 1981 to 3,439 in 1998).

**Miscellaneous** drug offences have remained fairly stable in the late 1970s to 1980s. From the mid-1980s, it started an upward trend to attain its highest of 1,231 in 1992. In the past six years, it decreased 85% to 184 adults charged in 1998.

**Figure 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Pacific Region, 1977-1998**



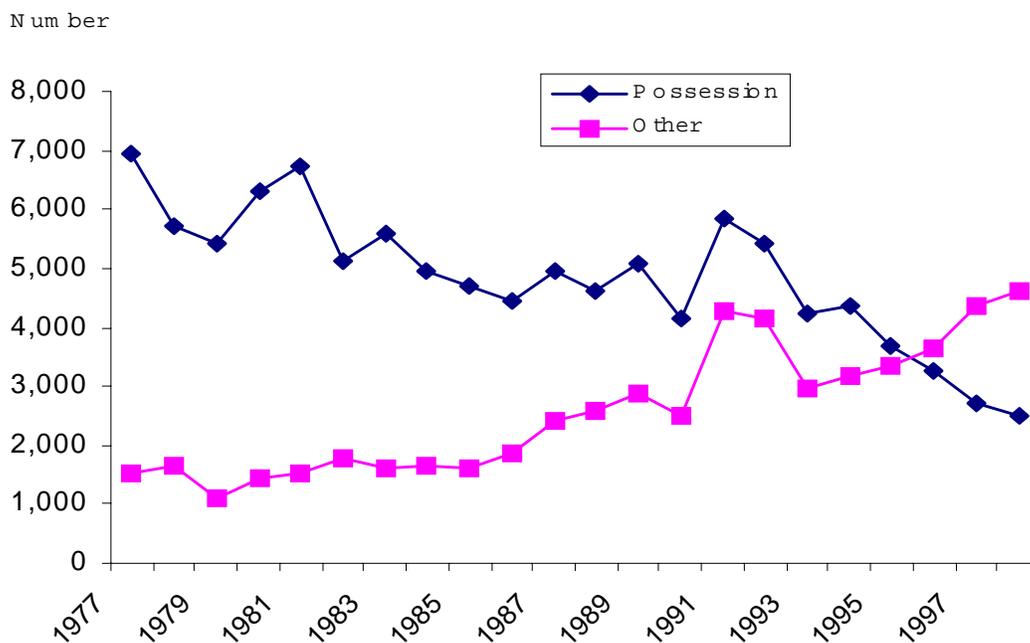
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

In terms of nature of offence, drug **trafficking** accounted for almost one-half (47%) of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998; drug **possession** accounted for 35%; cultivation of cannabis accounted for 17%. Drug importation offences accounted for less than 1% of the drug offences reported in 1998

The number of adults charged with drug **possession** has levelled off in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but has decreased 26% from 1983 to 1990 (5,587 in 1983 to 4,129 in 1990). A 42% increase was reported in 1991 (5,855 adults charged that year), only to decrease moderately until 1998 (-58%).

In contrast, the number of adults charged with **trafficking** has increased 140% over the 20 years period, from 1,406 adults charged in 1977 to 3,370 in 1998. Importation of drugs has remained under the 55 adults charged from 1979 to 1998. The number of adults charged with a cultivation offence has remained fairly stable from the late 1970s to the mid-1980s. From 1983 to 1998 however, it rapidly increased from 119 adults charged with a cultivation offence in 1984 to 1,211 in 1998 (+918%).

**Figure 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Pacific Region, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

As a whole, the **total** number of adults charged with drug offences in Pacific Region decreased from 8,448 in the late 1970s to 7,108 in 1998. The trend has generally been levelling in the last few years.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

### **Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data**

Because British Columbia does not report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS), it was therefore impossible to make the comparison between police and courts data for the Pacific Region.

### **Methods of Projection**

The statistical method chosen in the following projection is called **Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection**. The method is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The method involves the calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

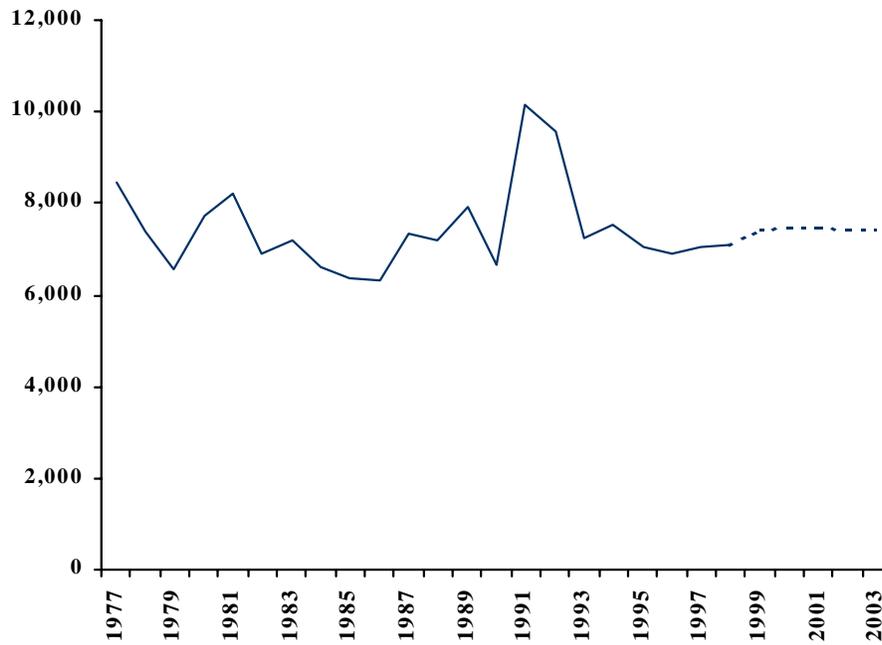
### **Results of the Projection (Figure 3, Appendix 3)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

The result of the extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police in Pacific Region will increase slightly in the next five years. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be about 5%, from 7,108 adults charged in 1998 to 7,443 in 2003.

**Figure 3**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Pacific Region, Actual (1977-1998) and Projected (1999-2003)**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

# **APPENDICES**

**Table 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Pacific Region, 1977-1998**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	763	209	200	7,276	8,448
1978	1,064	230	149	5,945	7,388
1979	323	189	128	5,906	6,546
1980	345	293	115	6,958	7,711
1981	220	376	128	7,509	8,233
1982	250	402	94	6,138	6,884
1983	322	343	60	6,471	7,196
1984	207	539	229	5,642	6,617
1985	225	504	295	5,321	6,345
1986	210	672	354	5,068	6,304
1987	189	922	485	5,764	7,360
1988	233	1,294	382	5,276	7,185
1989	206	2,385	227	5,124	7,942
1990	238	1,178	329	4,890	6,635
1991	444	2,257	1,124	6,305	10,130
1992	457	2,352	1,231	5,540	9,580
1993	536	1,971	47	4,667	7,221
1994	673	1,947	46	4,862	7,525
1995	537	2,109	25	4,357	7,028
1996	612	2,229	50	3,990	6,881
1997	550	2,568	129	3,815	7,062
1998	737	2,748	184	3,439	7,108

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Pacific Region, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Possession</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Importation</b>	<b>Cultivation</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	6,929	1,406	43	70	8,448
1978	5,729	1,494	73	92	7,388
1979	5,432	1,014	40	60	6,546
1980	6,288	1,345	27	51	7,711
1981	6,730	1,435	34	34	8,233
1982	5,119	1,673	25	67	6,884
1983	5,587	1,437	53	119	7,196
1984	4,954	1,478	44	141	6,617
1985	4,718	1,442	43	142	6,345
1986	4,456	1,614	21	213	6,304
1987	4,933	2,096	33	298	7,360
1988	4,624	2,168	26	367	7,185
1989	5,068	2,384	36	454	7,942
1990	4,129	2,128	26	352	6,635
1991	5,855	3,695	35	545	10,130
1992	5,439	3,364	50	727	9,580
1993	4,239	2,412	21	549	7,221
1994	4,369	2,396	19	744	7,525
1995	3,665	2,621	20	722	7,028
1996	3,243	2,823	15	800	6,881
1997	2,707	3,049	44	1,262	7,062
1998	2,488	3,370	39	1,211	7,108

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**  
**Projected number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Pacific Region, 1999-2003**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Number</b>
1999	7,485
2000	7,474
2001	7,465
2002	7,454
2003	7,443

Projections prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.

**Profile and Projection of Drug Prosecutions**  
**Jurisdiction Report**  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

by  
Nathalie L. Quann, M.A.  
Kwing Hung, Ph.D.

**Research and Statistics Division**  
**Department of Justice Canada**

**March 2000**



## **Highlights for British Columbia**

- In 1998, there were 7,069 adults charged by the police with a drug offence, accounting for 18.5% of Canada, which is higher than its population share of 13.2%.
- From 1977 to 1998, the **number of adults charged** with a drug offence decreased by 15% from 8,281 adults charged in 1977 to 7,069 adults charged in 1998. However, the trend has been stable in the last few years.
- In terms of **types of drugs**, there had been a decrease in the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence in the late 1970s. Since 1981, after a short increase, it has been on a downward trend. In contrast, there had been a large increase in the number of adults charged with cocaine offences since the late 1980s. The number of adults charged with miscellaneous drug offences has been on an upward trend until 1992, and decreased dramatically since that year. However, heroin offences recorded a decrease in the early 1980s to attain its lowest level in 1987 but have since increased up until 1998.
- In terms of **nature of offence**, drug trafficking now accounts for 47% of all adults charged with drug offence while drug possession accounts for 35%. The remaining 18% involve cultivation and importation of drugs. The proportion of drug trafficking has slowly increased in the last few years while drug possession have slowly decreased.
- Based on the **extrapolation method of projection** selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase about 4% in the next five years, increasing from 7,069 in 1998 to 7,373 in 2003.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

This is an update of that project. There are two products in the project: a national report and a series of jurisdictional reports. The reports provide information on historical profile of the trend of drug offences in the past 20 years plus a five-year projection of the trend into the future.

## **Data Sources**

The profiles and projections were based on police reported data collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The period of data used was from 1977 to 1998, the latest data available. As the objective is to produce indicators of workload in drug prosecutions, data on the number of adults formally charged by the police are used.

These data were collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) which represents the crime data of every police force in Canada. The data from this survey are the most current and reliable data on drug offences that are available in Canada today. [At the request of the Agent Affairs Unit, the number of drug offences here include only those under the Narcotic Control Act (NCA), excluding those under the Food and Drugs Act (FDA).]

In addition to police data, we also look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from British Columbia, Manitoba and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Figures 1-2, Appendices 1-2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged in British Columbia with cannabis offences accounted for 48% of all drug offences in 1998, followed by cocaine (39%), and heroin (10%). The remaining 3% were for miscellaneous narcotics.

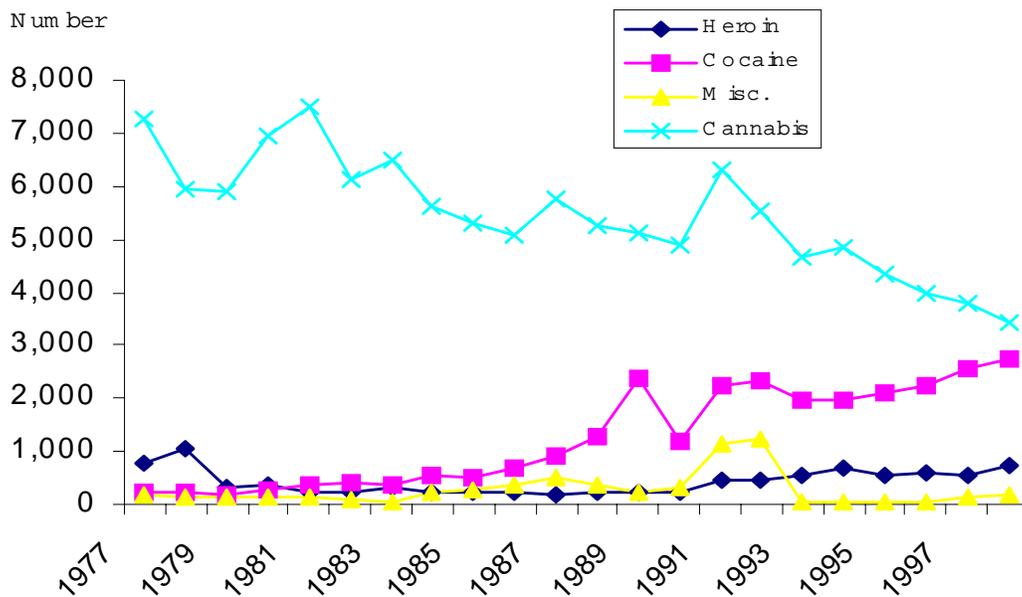
**Heroin** offences in 1977 were similar to 1998. It decreased from 761 adults charged in the late 1970s to around 200 in mid-1980s but has increased to 736 in 1998. The total number of adults charged was under 750 adults since 1979.

**Cocaine** offences increased dramatically from 205 adults charged in the late 1970s to 2,741 in 1998 (13 times higher). The biggest increases were reported between 1988 to 1989 (+85%), and once again between 1990 and 1991 (+93%).

**Cannabis** offences have remained fairly stable from the end of the 1970s to early 1980s. From 1982 on, the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence decreased 54% from the number of adults charged in 1981 (from 7,398 in 1981 to 3,408 in 1998).

**Miscellaneous** drug offences have remained fairly stable in the late 1970s to 1980s. From the mid-1980s, it started an upward trend to attain its highest of 1,231 in 1992. In the past six years, it decreased 85% to 184 adults charged in 1998.

**Figure 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**British Columbia, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

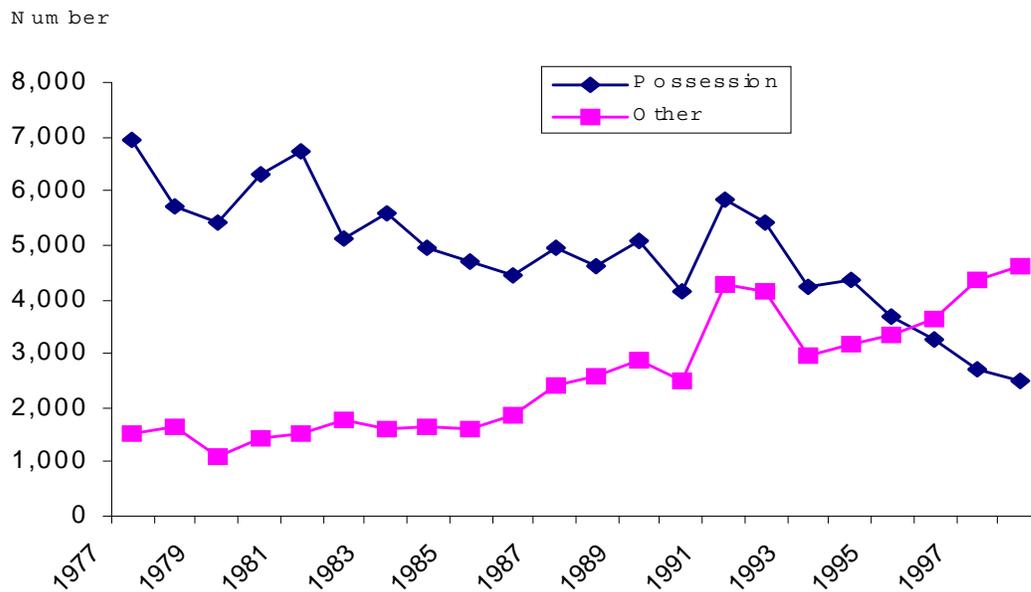
In terms of nature of offence, drug **trafficking** accounted almost one-half (47%) of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998; drug **possession** accounted for 35%; cultivation of cannabis accounted for 17%. Drug **importation** offences accounted for less than 1% of drug offences reported in 1998.

The number of adults charged with drug **possession** has levelled off in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but has decreased 26% from 1983 to 1990 (5,483 in 1983 to 4,058 in 1990). A 42%

increase was reported in 1991 (5,777 adults charged that year), only to decrease every year until 1998 (-57%).

In contrast, the number of adults charged with **trafficking** has increased 143% over the 20 years period, from 1,380 adults charged in 1977 to 3,354 in 1998. Importation of drugs has remained under the 55 adults charged from 1979 to 1998. The number of adults charged with a cultivation offence has remained fairly stable from the late 1970s to the mid-1980s. From 1983 to 1998 however, it rapidly increased from 118 adults charged with a cultivation offence to 1,204 (10 times higher).

**Figure 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**British Columbia, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

As a whole, the **total** number of adults charged with drug offences in British Columbia decreased from 8,281 in the late 1970s to 7,069 in 1998. The trend has generally been levelling in the last few years.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

## **Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data**

Because British Columbia does not report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS), it was therefore impossible to make the comparison between police and courts data for British Columbia.

## **Methods of Projection**

The statistical method chosen in the following projection is called **Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection**. The method is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The method involves the calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

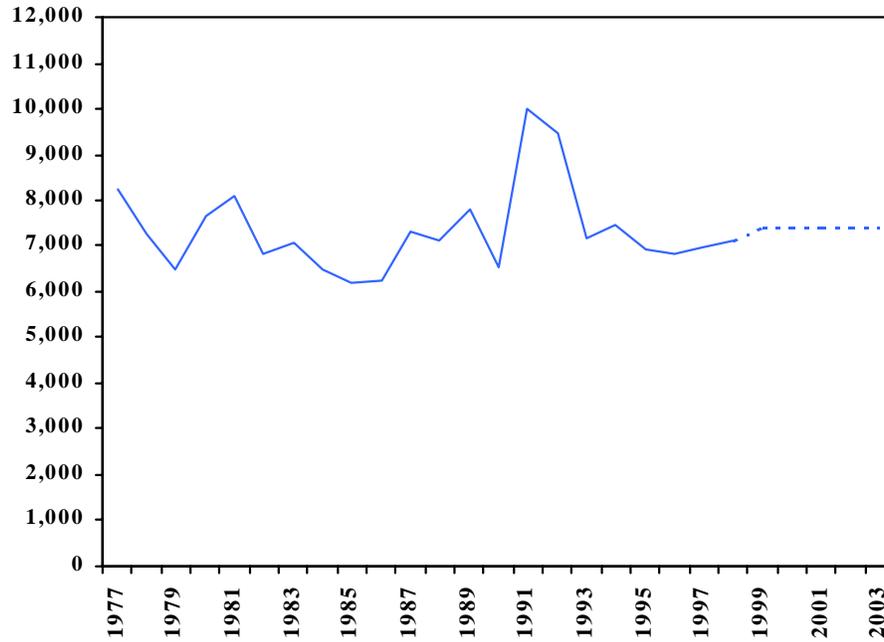
## **Results of the Projection (Figure 3, Appendix 3)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

The result of the extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police in British Columbia will increase slightly in the next five years. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be about 4%, from 7,069 adults charged in 1998 to 7,373 in 2003.

**Figure 3**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**British Columbia, Actual (1977-1998) and Projected (1999-2003)**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

# **APPENDICES**

**Table 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**British Columbia, 1977-1998**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	761	205	189	7,126	8,281
1978	1,063	228	144	5,797	7,232
1979	323	189	127	5,812	6,451
1980	345	290	111	6,884	7,630
1981	220	370	127	7,398	8,115
1982	250	398	94	6,065	6,807
1983	322	340	60	6,328	7,050
1984	207	534	228	5,509	6,478
1985	225	487	295	5,187	6,194
1986	210	669	351	4,996	6,226
1987	189	915	485	5,702	7,291
1988	233	1,284	382	5,182	7,081
1989	206	2,372	226	5,024	7,828
1990	238	1,165	329	4,790	6,522
1991	444	2,245	1,124	6,188	10,001
1992	457	2,341	1,231	5,463	9,492
1993	536	1,954	47	4,585	7,122
1994	673	1,943	46	4,755	7,417
1995	537	2,101	24	4,239	6,901
1996	612	2,223	50	3,920	6,805
1997	550	2,536	128	3,749	6,963
1998	736	2,741	184	3,408	7,069

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**British Columbia, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Possession</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Importation</b>	<b>Cultivation</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	6,796	1,380	35	70	8,281
1978	5,590	1,481	72	89	7,232
1979	5,343	1,008	40	60	6,451
1980	6,228	1,324	27	51	7,630
1981	6,633	1,414	34	34	8,115
1982	5,057	1,658	25	67	6,807
1983	5,483	1,396	53	118	7,050
1984	4,838	1,457	43	140	6,478
1985	4,603	1,411	43	137	6,194
1986	4,387	1,607	19	213	6,226
1987	4,886	2,074	33	298	7,291
1988	4,550	2,141	25	365	7,081
1989	4,999	2,348	35	446	7,828
1990	4,058	2,090	26	348	6,522
1991	5,777	3,650	34	540	10,001
1992	5,374	3,348	48	722	9,492
1993	4,175	2,378	21	548	7,122
1994	4,287	2,370	19	741	7,417
1995	3,583	2,589	20	709	6,901
1996	3,177	2,815	15	798	6,805
1997	2,661	2,997	44	1,261	6,963
1998	2,472	3,354	39	1,204	7,069

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**  
**Projected number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**British Columbia, 1999-2003**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Number</b>
1999	7,404
2000	7,396
2001	7,389
2002	7,381
2003	7,373

Projections prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.

**Profile and Projection of Drug Prosecutions**  
**Jurisdiction Report**  
**YUKON**

by  
Nathalie L. Quann, M.A.  
Kwing Hung, Ph.D.

**Research and Statistics Division**  
**Department of Justice Canada**

**March 2000**



## Highlights for Yukon

- In 1998, there were 39 adults charged by the police with a drug offence, accounting for 0.1% of Canada, same as its population share of 0.1%.
- From 1977 to 1998, the **number of adults charged** with a drug offence decreased by 77% from 167 adults charged in 1977 to 39 adults charged in 1998. However, the trend has been fluctuating in the last few years.
- In terms of **types of drugs**, the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence has decreased significantly when comparing 1977 to 1998 data. Cocaine offences were fairly consistent over the year, with exceptions of sharp increases in 1985, 1993 and 1997. The number of adults charged with miscellaneous drug offences has been on a downward trend from 1977 until 1998 while there were very few heroin offences.
- In terms of **nature of offence**, drug possession and drug trafficking each accounted for 41% of all adults charged with drug offence in 1998. The remaining 18% involve cultivation and importation of drugs. The proportion of drug trafficking has fluctuated over the 20 year period examined.
- A comparison between the number of adults charged with drug offences and the number of drug cases handled in **Yukon provincial criminal courts** reveals that for every 100 adults charged, more than 100 cases end up in courts. The reason is because some court cases may arise from charges by the police from the previous year. The small total number of cases also contribute to the wide fluctuations.
- Based on the **extrapolation method of projection** selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase from 39 in 1998 to 70 in 2003 in the next five years.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

This is an update of that project. There are two products in the project: a national report and a series of jurisdictional reports. The reports provide information on historical profile of the trend of drug offences in the past 20 years plus a five-year projection of the trend into the future.

## **Data Sources**

The profiles and projections were based on police reported data collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The period of data used was from 1977 to 1998, the latest data available. As the objective is to produce indicators of workload in drug prosecutions, data on the number of adults formally charged by the police are used.

These data were collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) which represents the crime data of every police force in Canada. The data from this survey are the most current and reliable data on drug offences that are available in Canada today. [At the request of the Agent Affairs Unit, the number of drug offences here include only those under the Narcotic Control Act (NCA), excluding those under the Food and Drugs Act (FDA).]

In addition to police data, we also look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from Yukon, Yukon and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Figures 1-2, Appendices 1-2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged in Yukon with cannabis offences accounted for 79% of all drug offences in 1998, followed by cocaine (18%). The remaining 3% were for miscellaneous narcotics and heroin.

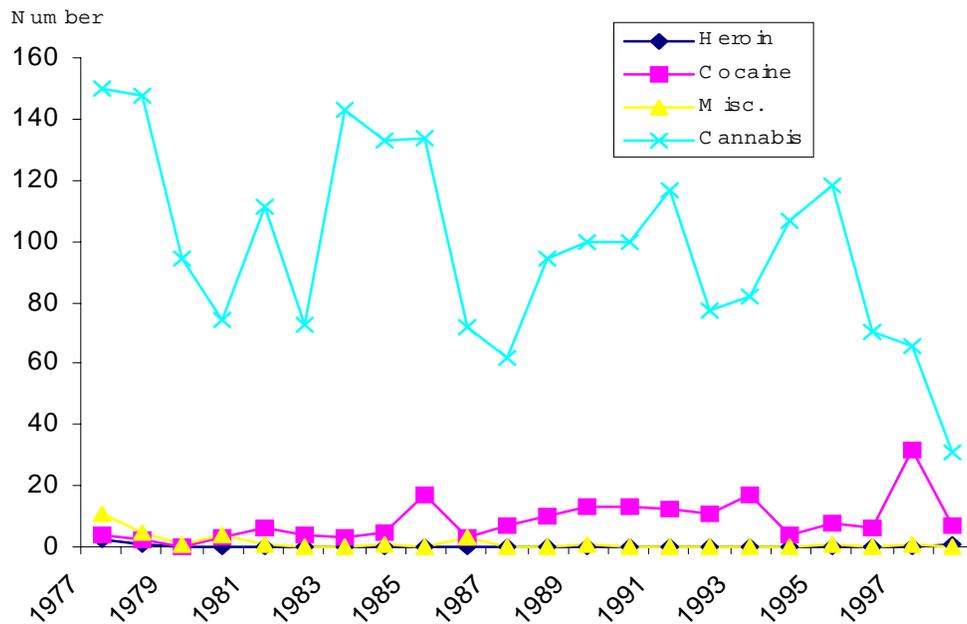
Practically no adults were charged with **heroin** offences during the 20 year period examined.

**Cocaine** offences remained fairly stable during the late 1970s to the mid-1980s (less than 7 adults charged). The first sharp increase occurred in 1985 where there were 3 times more adults charged in 1985 (17) than in 1984 (5). The second sharp increase occurred in 1993 where 17 adults were charged with a cocaine offence compared to 11 the previous year. Finally, the third sharp increase occurred in 1997 where there were almost 6 times more adults charged that year (32) compared to the previous year (6).

**Cannabis** offences have decreased starting from the 1970s, experiencing small fluctuations throughout the period. In 1998, 31 adults were charged with a cannabis offence compared to 150 in 1977 (-79%).

**Miscellaneous** drug offences have experienced a sharp decrease in 1978, where 5 adults were charged compared to 11 during the previous year. From that year on, the number of adults charged with a miscellaneous drug offence has remained under 5 adults.

**Figure 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Yukon, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

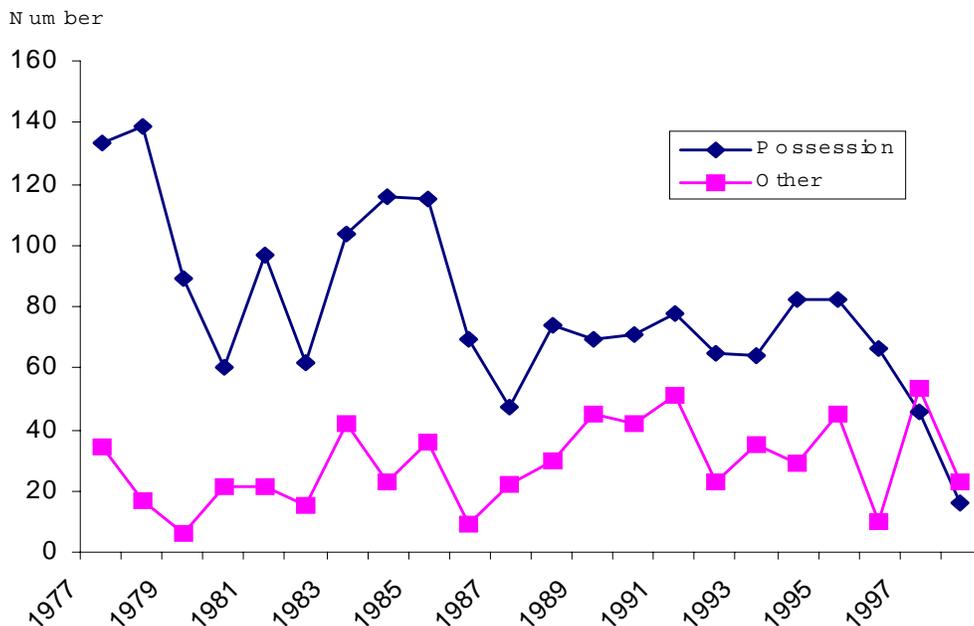
In terms of nature of offence, both drug **possession** and drug **trafficking** accounted for 41% (each) of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998; cultivation of cannabis accounted for 18%. There were no adults charged with drug importation offences in 1998.

The number of adults charged with drug **possession** has decreased in the late 1970s to early 1980s only to increase 68% in 1983 (from 62 adults charged in 1979 to 104 in 1980). Since 1981, it has fluctuated consistently over the years, to a low of 16 adults charged in 1998. This represented an 88% decrease from 1977 (133 adults charged).

In contrast, the number of adults charged with **trafficking** has remained fairly consistent, with slight fluctuations in the 20 year period examined. As a whole, there was a 38% decrease, with 26 adults charged in 1977 compared to 16 adults in 1998.

The number of adults charged with a cultivation offence has remained fairly low and stable from the late 1970s to the mid-1990s (less than 5 adults accused). The only sharp increase was reported in 1995 where 13 adults were charged compared to 3 the previous year. It has been on a downward trend since that year.

**Figure 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Yukon, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

As a whole, the **total** number of adults charged with drug offences in Yukon decreased from 167 in the late 1970s to 39 in 1998. The trend has generally been fluctuating in the last few years.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

### **Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data**

The assumption in comparing the number of adults charged by the police and the number of cases handled by provincial criminal courts is that a small proportion of the offenders charged may not actually appear before the courts for various reasons such as diversion. If this is the case, then the number of drug cases in courts should be slightly below the number of adults charged.

Two years of provincial criminal court data were used in the comparison (1996/97 and 1997/98). For the two years, there were a total of 166 persons charged by the police in Yukon while there were 226 cases handled by Yukon provincial criminal courts. The ratio between the two numbers was 1.36, compared to 0.85 for Canada as a whole. The conclusion is that for every 100 adults charged by the police in Yukon the average number of court cases is about 136, compared to 85 in Canada. Note that the number can be higher than 1 because the time of appearance before the courts is not the same as the time of charging by the police and some cases handled by the courts may have been cases charged by the police in previous year.

### **Methods of Projection**

The statistical method chosen in the following projection is called **Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection**. The method is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The method involves the calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

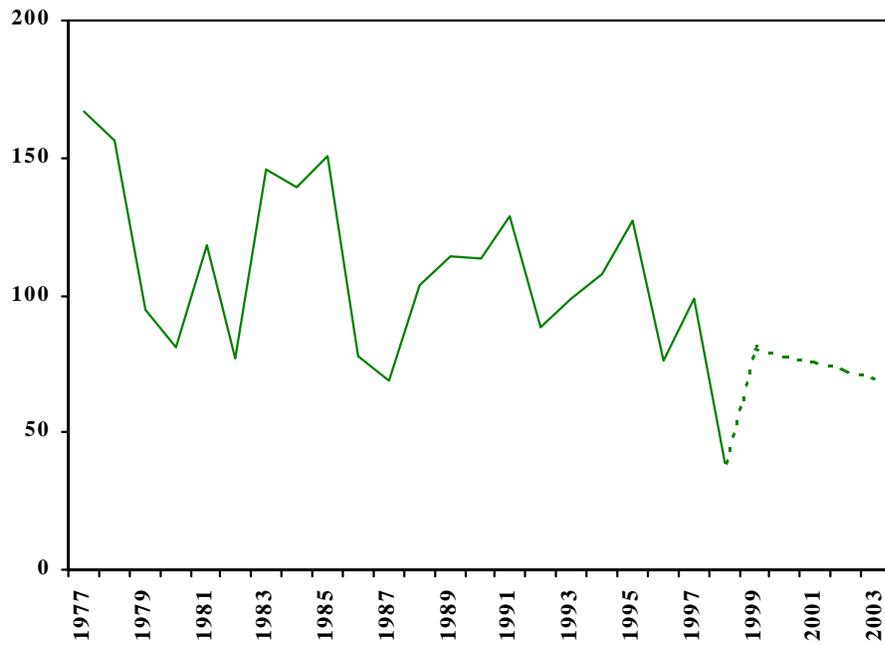
### **Results of the Projection (Figure 3, Appendix 3)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

The result of the extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police in Yukon will increase in the next five years. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be from 39 adults charged in 1998 to 70 in 2003 (+79%).

**Figure 3**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Yukon, Actual (1977-1998) and Projected (1999-2003)**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

# **APPENDICES**

**Table 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Yukon, 1977-1998**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	2	4	11	150	167
1978	1	2	5	148	156
1979	0	0	1	94	95
1980	0	3	4	74	81
1981	0	6	1	111	118
1982	0	4	0	73	77
1983	0	3	0	143	146
1984	0	5	1	133	139
1985	0	17	0	134	151
1986	0	3	3	72	78
1987	0	7	0	62	69
1988	0	10	0	94	104
1989	0	13	1	100	114
1990	0	13	0	100	113
1991	0	12	0	117	129
1992	0	11	0	77	88
1993	0	17	0	82	99
1994	0	4	0	107	108
1995	0	8	1	118	127
1996	0	6	0	70	76
1997	0	32	1	66	99
1998	1	7	0	31	39

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Yukon, 1977-1998**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Possession</b>	<b>Trafficking</b>	<b>Importation</b>	<b>Cultivation</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	133	26	8	0	167
1978	139	13	1	3	156
1979	89	6	0	0	95
1980	60	21	0	0	81
1981	97	21	0	0	118
1982	62	15	0	0	77
1983	104	41	0	1	146
1984	116	21	1	1	139
1985	115	31	0	5	151
1986	69	7	2	0	78
1987	47	22	0	0	69
1988	74	27	1	2	104
1989	69	36	1	8	114
1990	71	38	0	4	113
1991	78	45	1	5	129
1992	65	16	2	5	88
1993	64	34	0	1	99
1994	82	26	0	3	108
1995	82	32	0	13	127
1996	66	8	0	2	76
1997	46	52	0	1	99
1998	16	16	0	7	39

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**  
**Projected number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Yukon, 1999-2003**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected Number</b>
1999	81
2000	78
2001	76
2002	73
2003	70

Projections prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.

**Profile and Projection of Drug Prosecutions**  
**Jurisdiction Report**  
**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

by  
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**Research and Statistics Division**  
**Department of Justice Canada**

**March 2000**



## Highlights for the Northwest Territories

- In 1998, there were 150 adults charged by the police with a drug offence, accounting for 0.4% of Canada, slightly higher than its population share of 0.2%.
- From 1977 to 1998, the **number of adults charged** with a drug offence slightly decreased by 4% from 157 adults charged in 1977 to 150 adults charged in 1998.
- In terms of **types of drugs**, the number of adults charged with a cannabis offence has remained fairly stable during the 20-year period examined, with some fluctuations over the years. Cocaine offences were on a general upward trend. The number of adults charged with heroin and miscellaneous drug offences has been generally small.
- In terms of **nature of offence**, drug possession now accounts for 55% of all adults charged with drug offence. The remaining 45% involve trafficking, cultivation and importation of drugs. The proportion of drug possession has remained fairly stable over the years.
- A comparison between the number of adults charged with drug offences and the number of drug cases handled in **Northwest Territories provincial criminal courts** reveals that for every 100 adults charged, about 40 cases end up in courts.
- Based on the **extrapolation method of projection** selected, the number of adults charged with drug offences will increase about 39% in the next five years, increasing from 150 in 1998 to 208 in 2003.

## **Background**

In September 1996, the Agent Affairs Unit of the Criminal Law Branch within the Department of Justice requested the Research and Statistics Division to analyze the level of drug offences in the past and to make future projections. The purpose was to provide information to facilitate discussions relating to volume and case management of drug cases.

This is an update of that project. There are two products in the project: a national report and a series of jurisdictional reports. The reports provide information on historical profile of the trend of drug offences in the past 20 years plus a five-year projection of the trend into the future.

## **Data Sources**

The profiles and projections were based on police reported data collected by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The period of data used was from 1977 to 1998, the latest data available. As the objective is to produce indicators of workload in drug prosecutions, data on the number of adults formally charged by the police are used.

These data were collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) which represents the crime data of every police force in Canada. The data from this survey are the most current and reliable data on drug offences that are available in Canada today. [At the request of the Agent Affairs Unit, the number of drug offences here include only those under the Narcotic Control Act (NCA), excluding those under the Food and Drugs Act (FDA).]

In addition to police data, we also look at some data from provincial criminal courts as collected by the Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS). However, the data are at the present incomplete, with data from 9 jurisdictions representing 80% of the national total number of cases. Data from Northwest Territories, Northwest Territories and New Brunswick are not yet available.

## **Profile of Historical Trends (Figures 1-2, Appendices 1-2)**

Police data from the UCR are broken down by the types of drugs, including heroin, cocaine, cannabis, and miscellaneous drugs. Data are also broken down by nature of offence, including possession, trafficking, importation, and cultivation.

In terms of types of drugs, number of adults charged in Northwest Territories with cannabis offences accounted for 94% of all drug offences in 1998, followed by cocaine (4%). The remaining 2% were for miscellaneous narcotics and heroin.

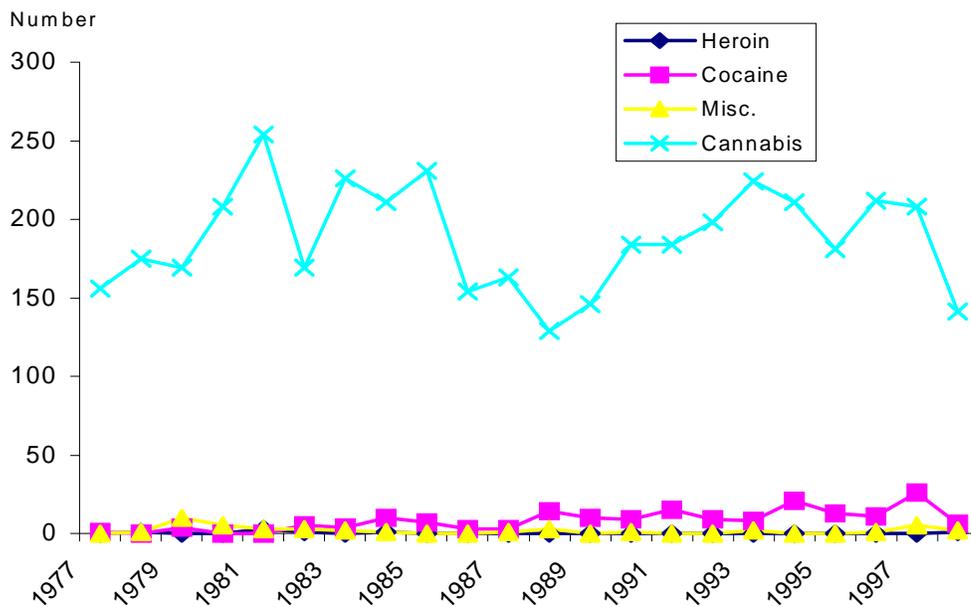
Practically no adults were charged with **heroin** offences during the 20 year period examined.

**Cocaine** offences were on a general upward trend in the last 20 years. There were wide fluctuations where the number increased a few times over the previous year. The reason is because of the overall small numbers.

**Cannabis** offences have been fairly stable during the 20-year period examined, with less than 250 adults charged every year. Highest number of adults charged with a cannabis offence occurred in 1981 (254) and the lowest occurred in 1998 with 141 adults charged.

**Miscellaneous** drug offences were generally low.

**Figure 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Northwest Territories, 1977-1998**



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

In terms of nature of offence, drug **possession** now accounts for 55% of all adults charged with drug offences in 1998 while trafficking accounts for 43%. There were practically no adults charged with drug cultivation (2) and importation (1) offences in 1998

The number of adults charged with drug **possession** has remained fairly stable in the late 1970s to early 1980s only to decrease under 100 adults charged in 1988. Since then, it move on an

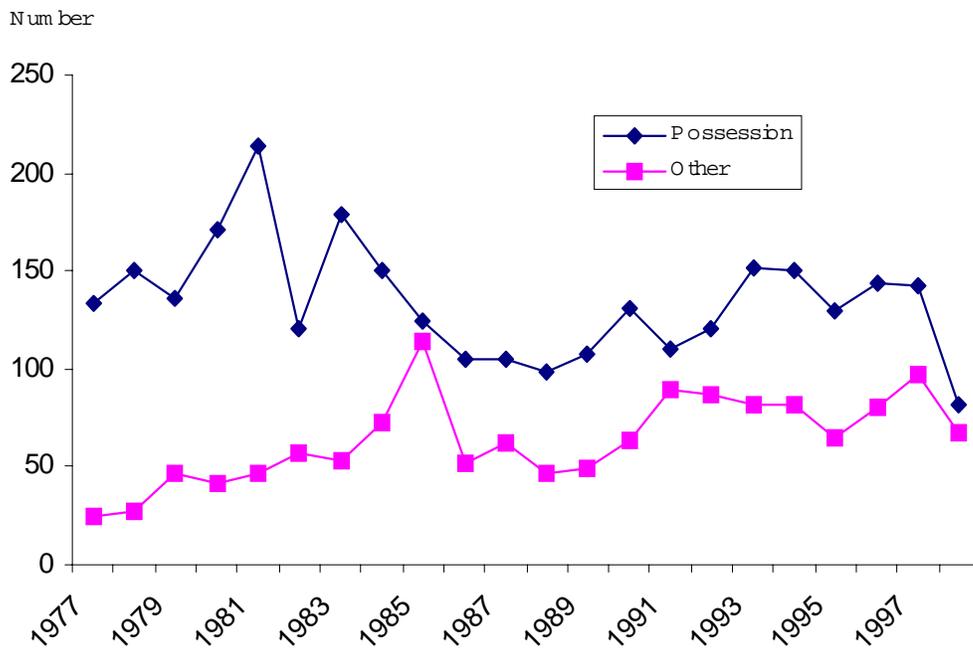
upward trend to attain its highest of 152 adults charged in 1993. After a stable few years, it decreased to 82 adults charged in 1998 (-46%).

In contrast, the number of adults charged with **trafficking** has remained on a slow upward trend.

Over the years, there were practically no adults charged with a cultivation or importation offence in the territory. For both offence types, the number of adults charged stayed under 5 over the past 20 years.

**Figure 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Northwest Territories, 1977-1998**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

As a whole, the **total** number of adults charged with drug offences in Northwest Territories slightly decreased from 157 in the late 1970s to 150 in 1998. However, the trend has decreased 37% in 1998 after a few years with a fairly stable number of adults charged with a drug offence.

It should be noted that the trend of reported drug offences may or may not reflect the level of usage of drugs as the level depends largely on the level of enforcement by the police.

## **Comparison between Police Data and Courts Data**

The assumption in comparing the number of adults charged by the police and the number of cases handled by provincial criminal courts is that a small proportion of the offenders charged may not actually appear before the courts for various reasons such as diversion. If this is the case, then the number of drug cases in courts should be slightly below the number of adults charged.

One year of provincial criminal court data were used in this section since the territory started participating in the Adult Criminal Court Survey only in 1997/98.

In 1997/98, there were 217 persons charged by the police in the Northwest Territories while there were 90 cases handled by the Northwest Territories provincial criminal courts. The ratio was 0.42, meaning that for every 100 adults charged by the police, 42 cases were handled in the provincial criminal courts. This was much lower than the rest of Canada where the ratio was 0.68. The reason for these lower ratios is not known.

The conclusion is that for every 100 adults charged by the police in the Northwest Territories the average number of court cases is about 42, compared to 85 in Canada. However, the actual number may vary widely from about 40 to 100, depending on the jurisdiction in question.

## **Methods of Projection**

The statistical method chosen in the following projection is called **Holt's two parameter exponential smoothing extrapolation projection**. The method is to define the ongoing trend of drug offences for those years where we have actual data, that is, from 1977 to 1998, and to project the trend into the future for 1999 to 2003. The method involves the calculation of moving averages of historical data. While this method uses all data points in the past, it puts most weight on the most recent preceding years. Therefore, what has been occurring in drug offences for the past several years (for example, 1994 to 1998) will weigh heavily on the outcome of the projected trend for the future.

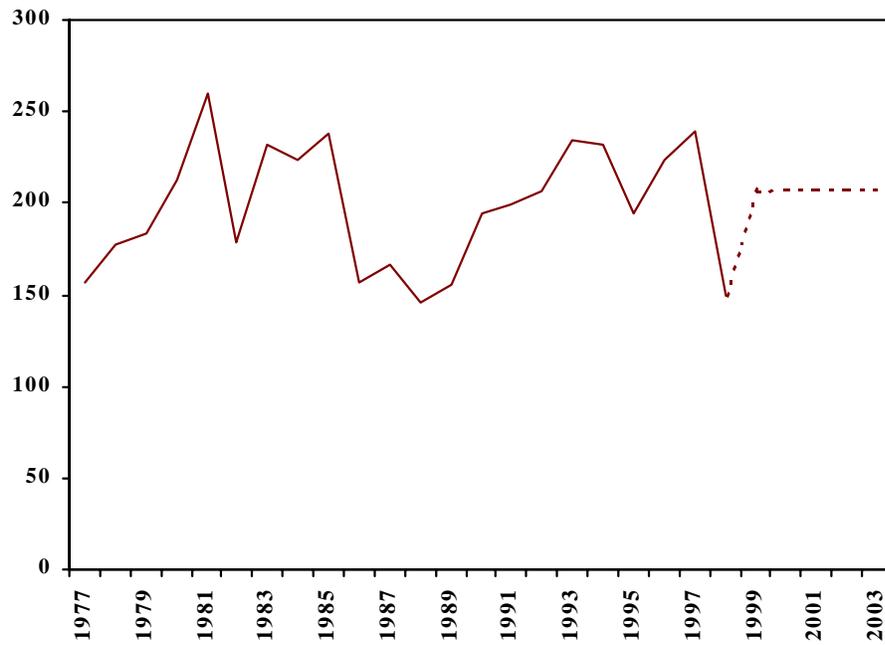
## **Results of the Projection (Figure 3, Appendix 3)**

While the analysis of historical data includes separate profiles based on types of drugs and nature of offence, the projection is only done for overall total number only because of small numbers after the breakdown in many of the jurisdictions.

The result of the extrapolation projection shows that the number of adults charged by the police in Northwest Territories will increase in the next five years. The total increase after 5 years is estimated to be about 39%, from 150 adults charged in 1998 to 208 in 2003.

**Figure 3**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Northwest Territories, Actual (1977-1998) and Projected (1999-2003)**

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

# **APPENDICES**

**Table 1**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by drug type**  
**Northwest Territories, 1977-1998**

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Heroin</b>	<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>Misc.</b>	<b>Cannabis</b>	<b>Total</b>
1977	0	1	0	156	157
1978	1	0	1	175	177
1979	0	4	10	169	183
1980	0	0	5	208	213
1981	3	0	3	254	260
1982	1	5	3	169	178
1983	0	4	2	226	232
1984	1	10	1	211	223
1985	0	7	0	231	238
1986	0	3	0	154	157
1987	0	3	1	163	167
1988	0	14	3	129	146
1989	0	10	0	146	156
1990	0	9	1	184	194
1991	0	15	0	184	199
1992	0	9	0	198	207
1993	0	8	2	224	234
1994	0	21	0	211	232
1995	0	13	0	181	194
1996	0	11	1	212	224
1997	0	26	5	208	239
1998	1	6	2	141	150

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Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 2**  
**Number of adults charged with drug offences, by offence type**  
**Northwest Territories, 1977-1998**

Year	Possession	Trafficking	Importation	Cultivation	Total
1977	133	22	0	2	157
1978	150	25	0	2	177
1979	136	47	0	0	183
1980	171	42	0	0	213
1981	214	46	0	0	260
1982	121	56	0	1	178
1983	179	53	0	0	232
1984	150	70	3	0	223
1985	124	113	1	0	238
1986	105	51	0	1	157
1987	105	61	0	1	167
1988	99	45	0	2	146
1989	107	47	0	2	156
1990	131	63	0	0	194
1991	110	85	0	4	199
1992	120	87	0	0	207
1993	152	79	0	3	234
1994	150	82	0	0	232
1995	129	65	0	0	194
1996	144	79	0	1	224
1997	142	97	0	0	239
1998	82	65	1	2	150

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

**Table 3**  
**Projected number of adults charged with drug offences**  
**Northwest Territories, 1999-2003**

Year	Projected Number
1999	207
2000	208
2001	208
2002	208
2003	208

Projections prepared by Research and Statistics Division, Department of Justice Canada.