



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Crime Trends, Demographics, and Public Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System

Presented to the Minister's Roundtable
by the Research and Statistics Division

Department of Justice Canada

November 1, 2002

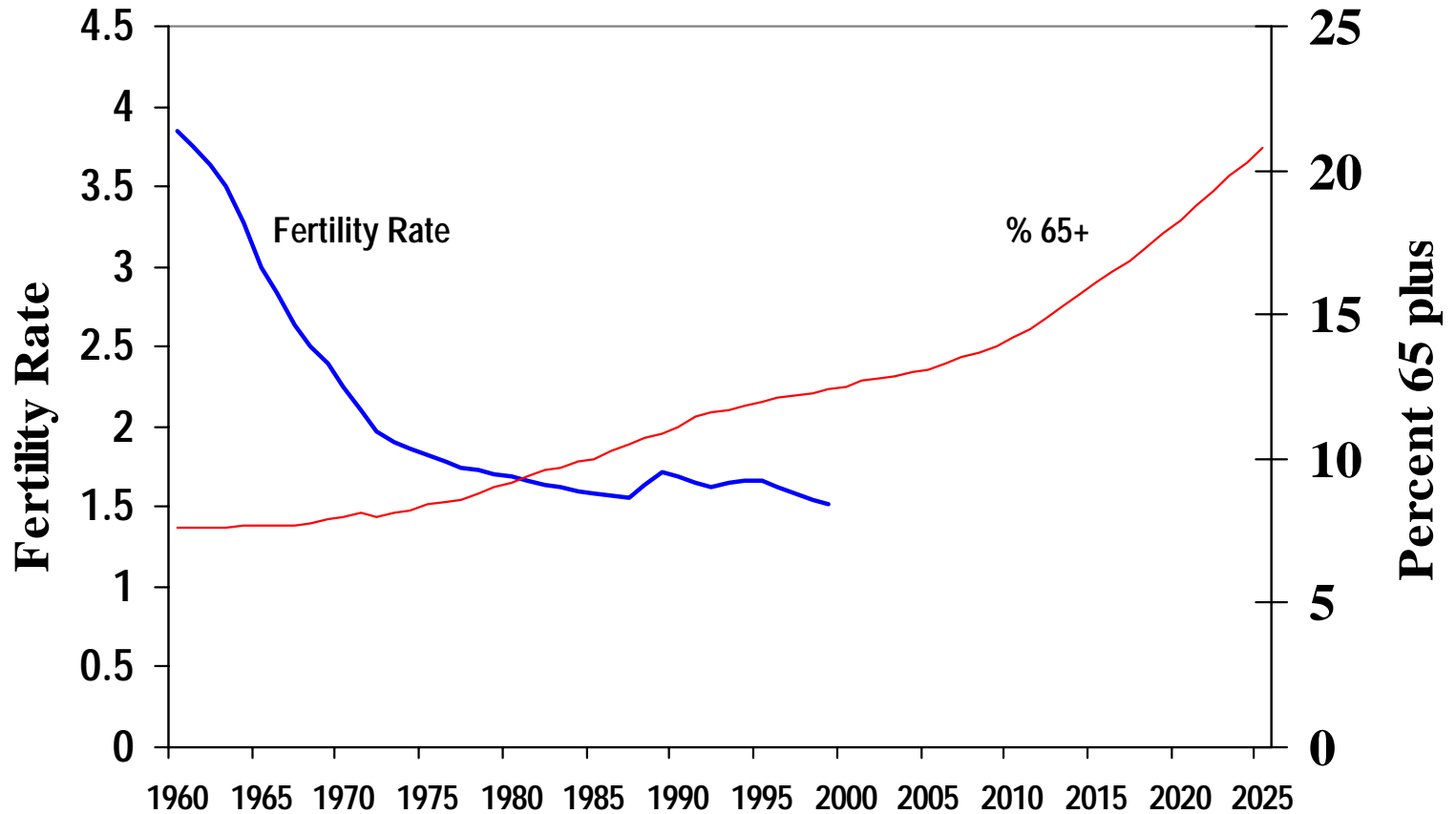
Appendix C



-
- **When thinking about crime and the criminal law we need to focus attention on more than victims and accused**
 - **The demographic portrait of Canada is changing and with it the values and principles of Canadian society.**



The Ageing Population and a Declining Fertility Rate



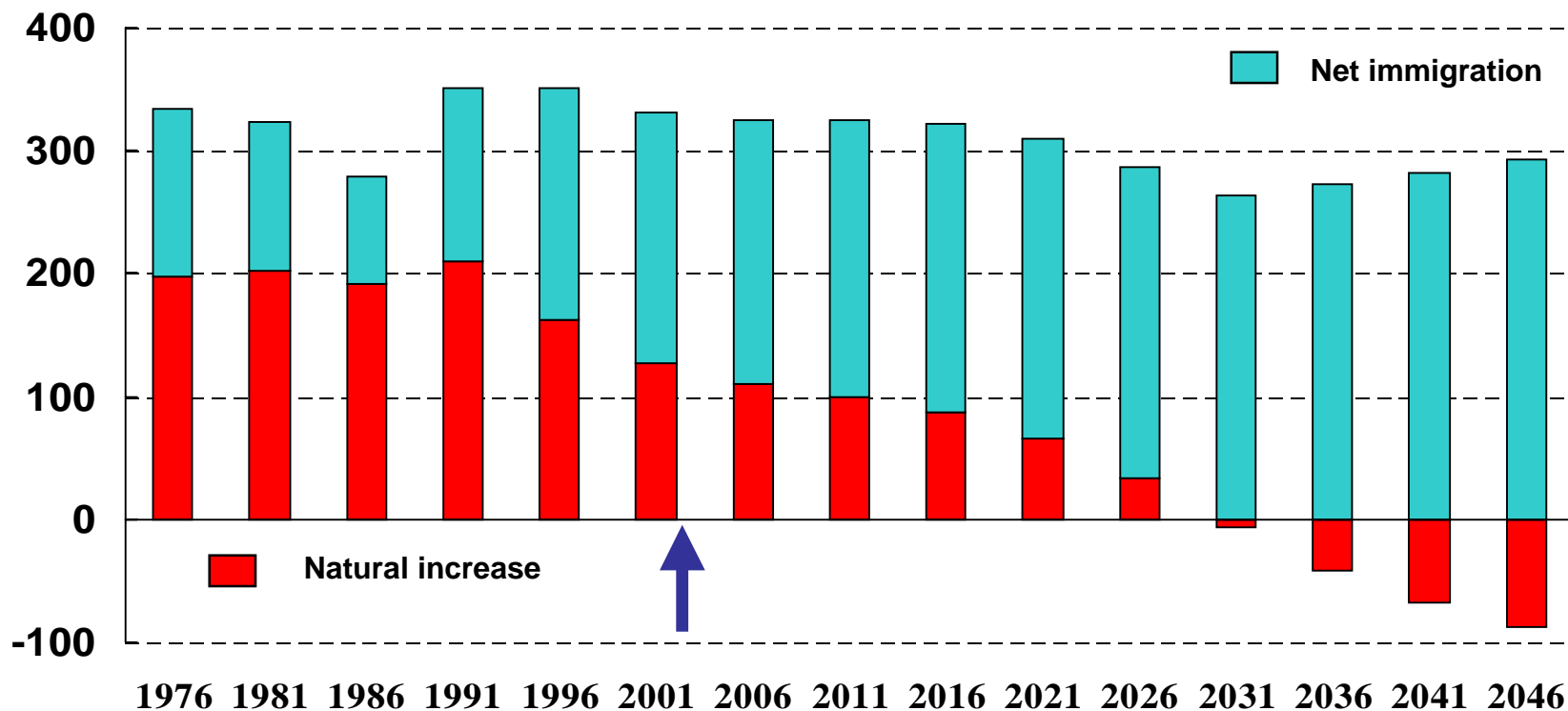
Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Justice Canada
 Source: Population Projections, Statistics Canada, 2000



Immigration and the Growth of the Population

Thousands

Population Growth by Component

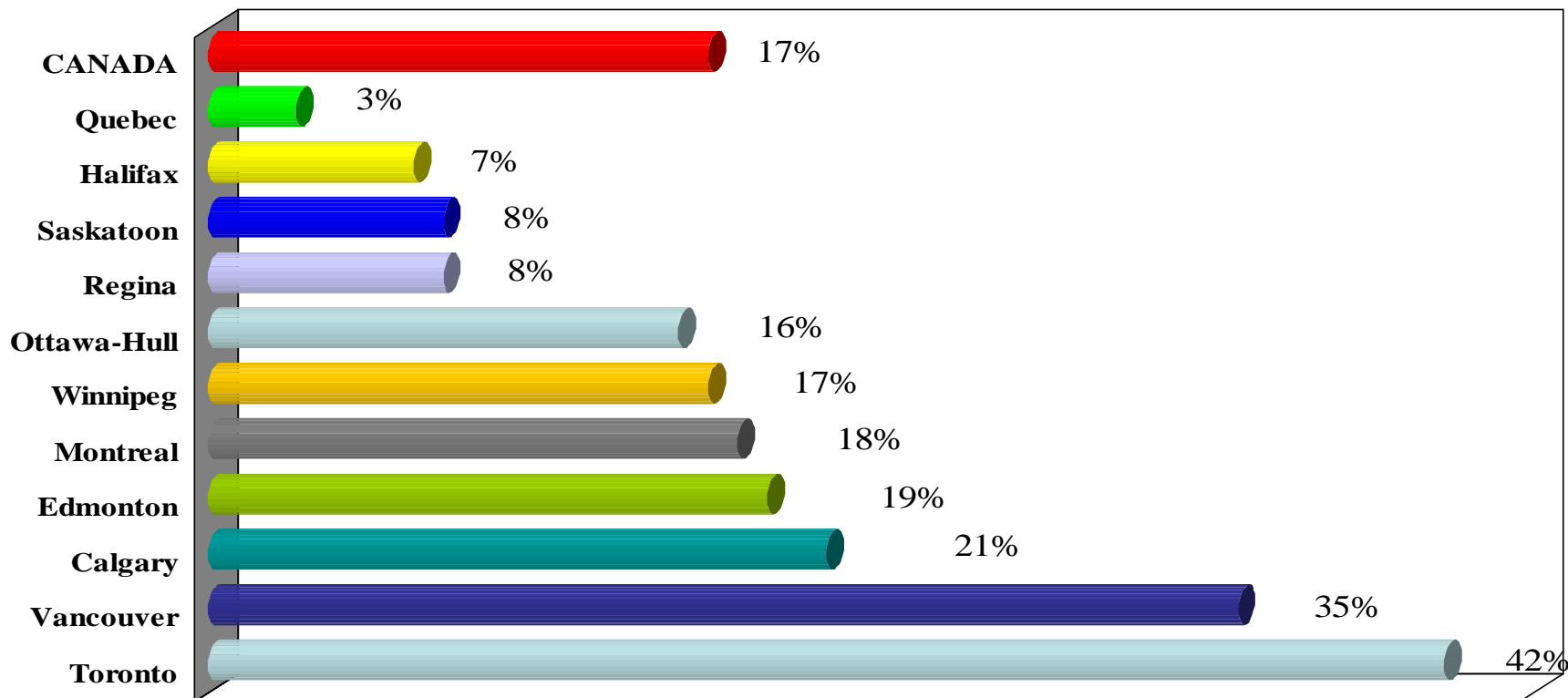


Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Justice Canada
 Source: Historical Data, Statistics Canada, Projection, HRDC, 2001



Immigration and Increased Diversity

Percent foreign-born in metropolitan areas

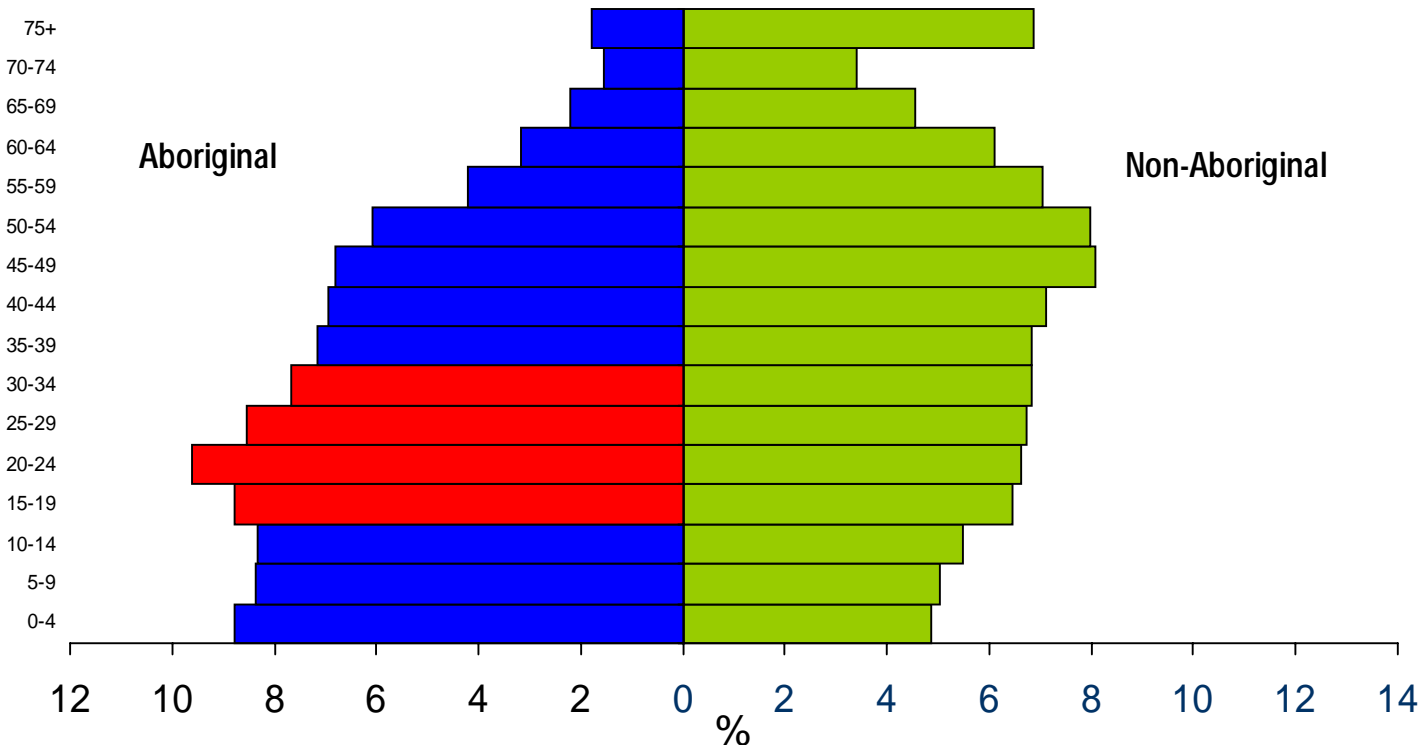


Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Justice Canada
Source: Census of Canada, 1996



Young Aboriginal Population

By 2011, the Aboriginal Population will remain young.



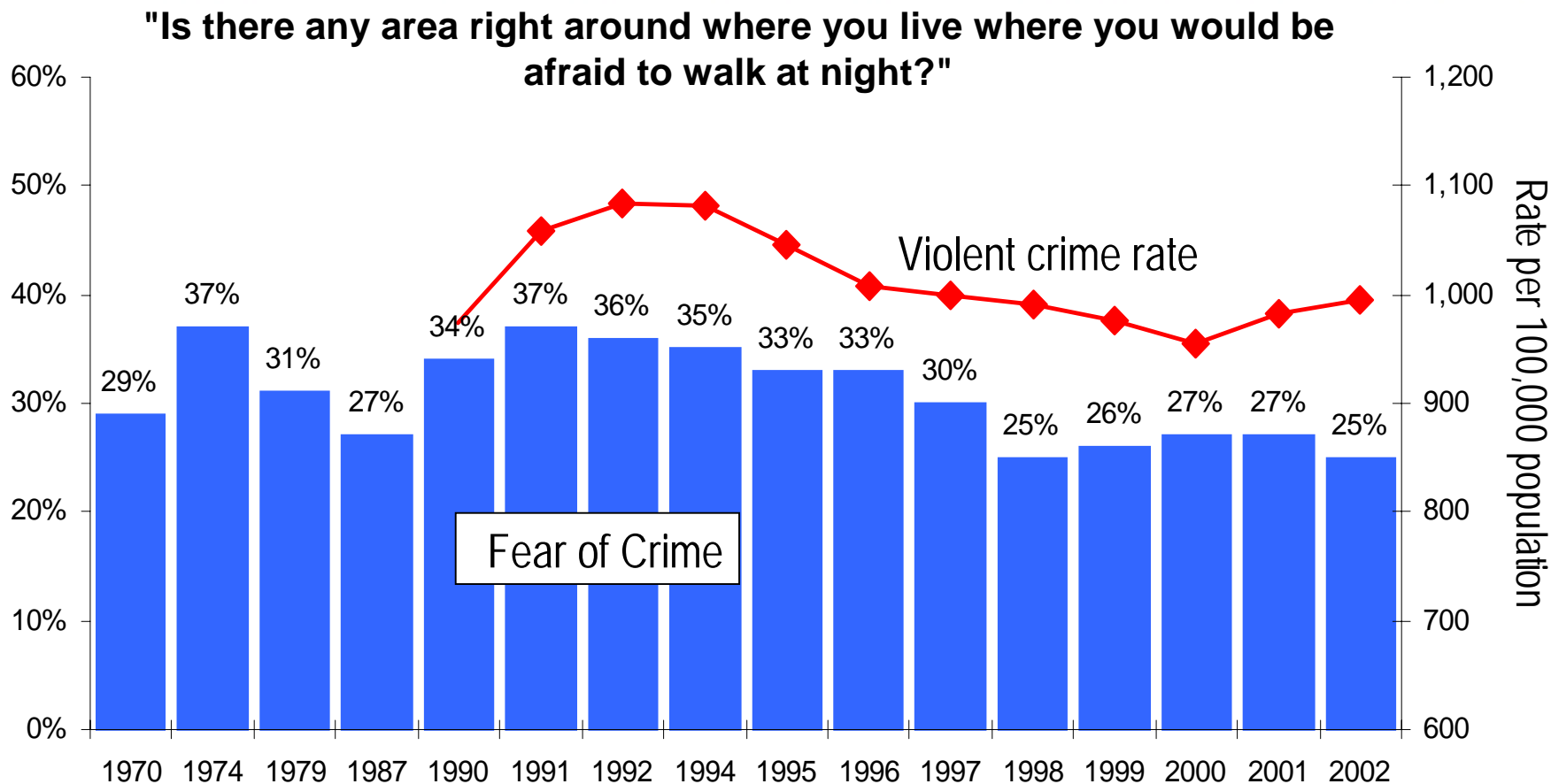
Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Justice Canada
 Source: Projection 2, "Projections of the Population with Aboriginal Identity in Canada", Statistics Canada, 1995



-
- **Public perceptions and attitudes towards crime change over time**
 - **They vary widely depending on where you live**
 - **Public perception can reflect the picture of crime**



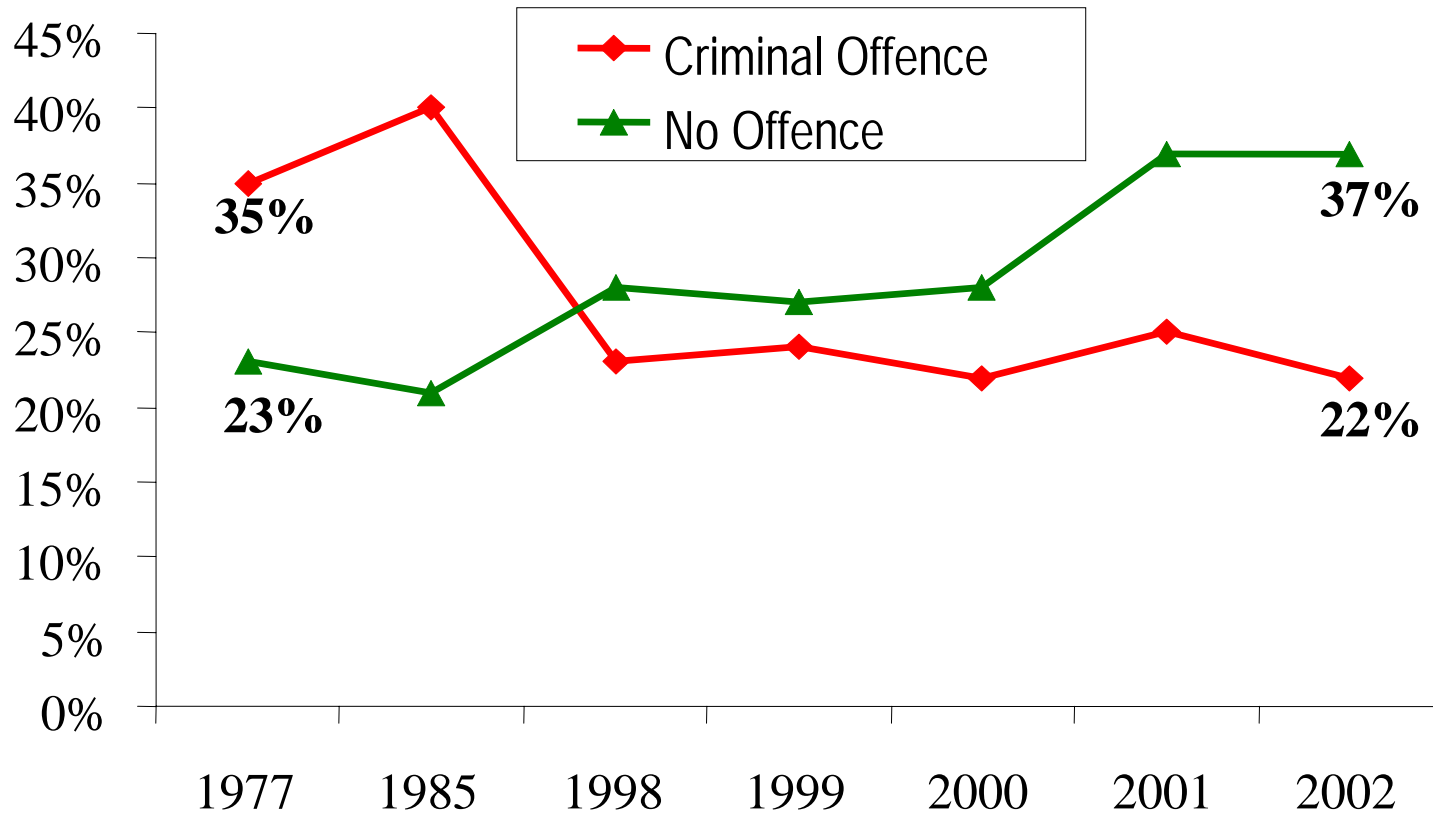
Levels of Reported Violent Crime and Fear of Crime, 1970-2002



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Justice Canada
 Source: Gallup and UCR, Statistics Canada



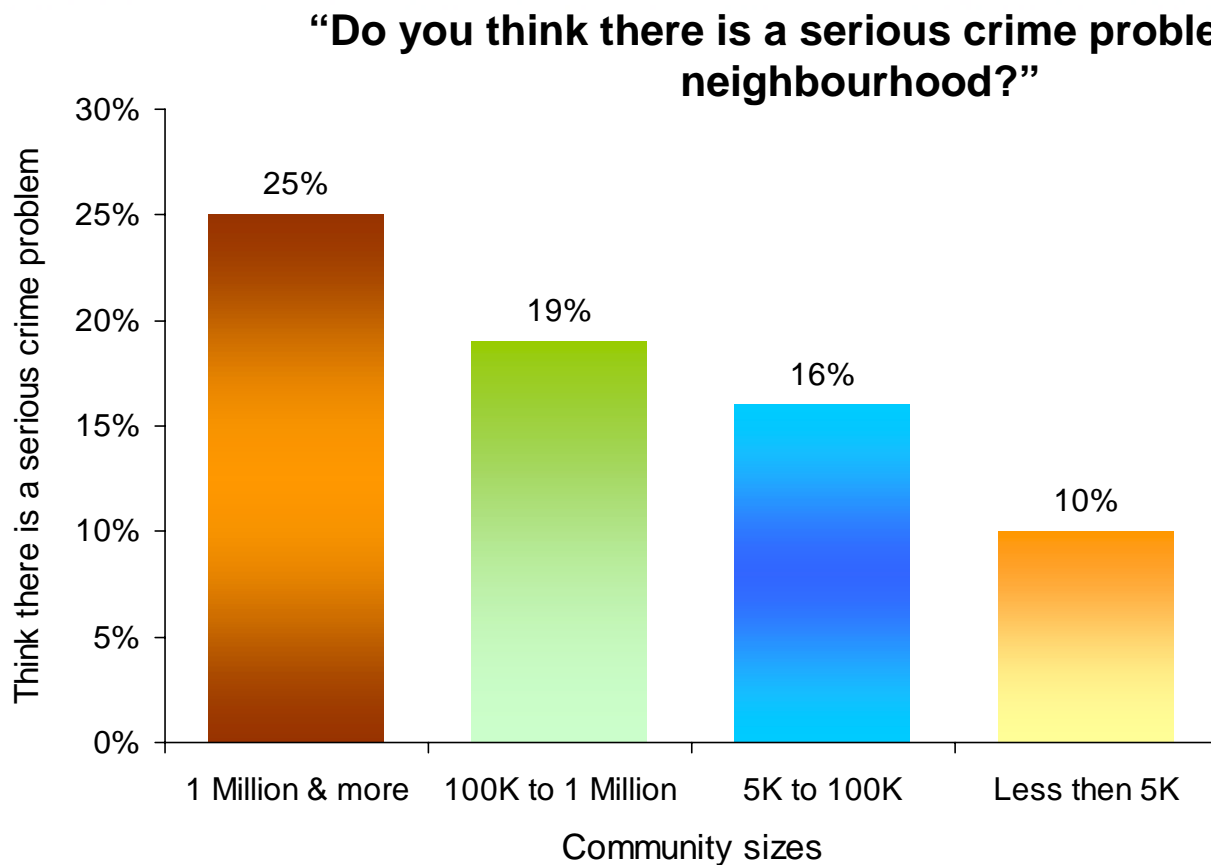
Decriminalization of Cannabis: A Reversal of Public Opinion



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Justice Canada.
Source: Gallup, 2002.



Communities' Perceptions Towards the Seriousness of Crime, 1999



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Justice Canada

Source: Environics Canada, The Focus Canada Report 1998/1

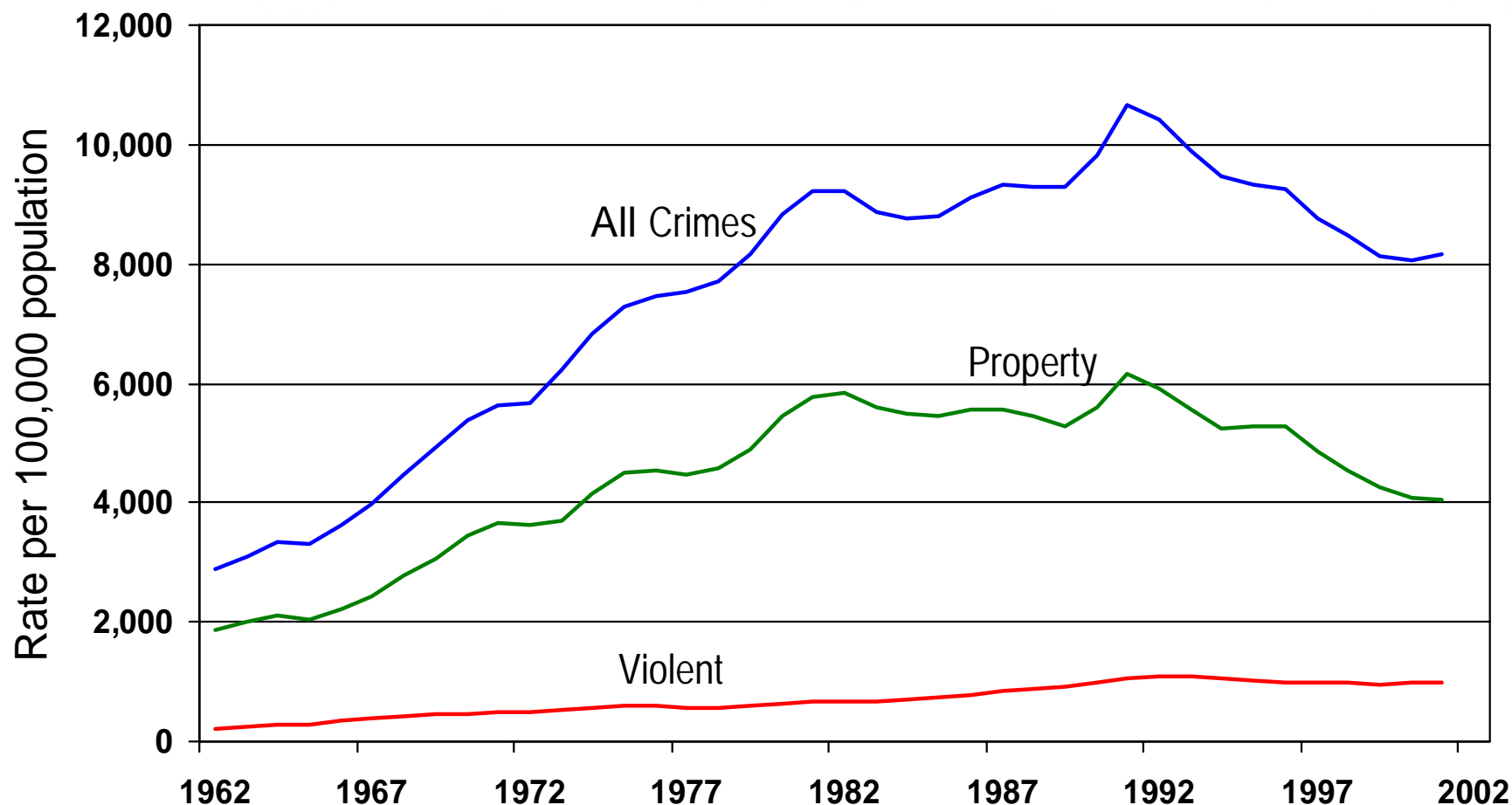




-
- **National indicators of crime are used as a measure of well-being and security**
 - **In isolation, national indicators can mask the reality at the community level.**



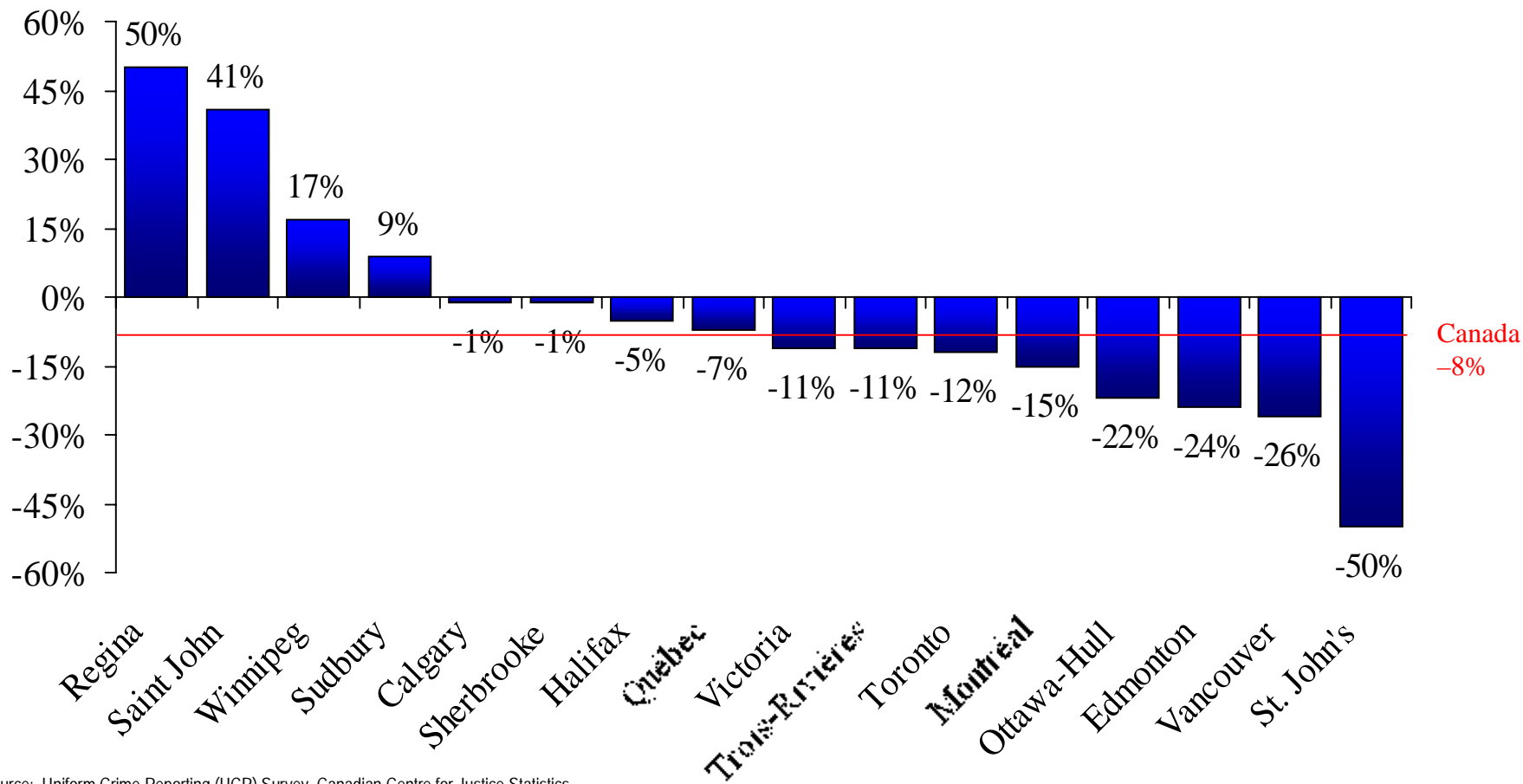
Historical Perspective on Crime Rates



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Justice Canada
Source: UCRI, Statistics Canada



Changing Violent Crime Rates Across the Urban Landscape, 1992-2001

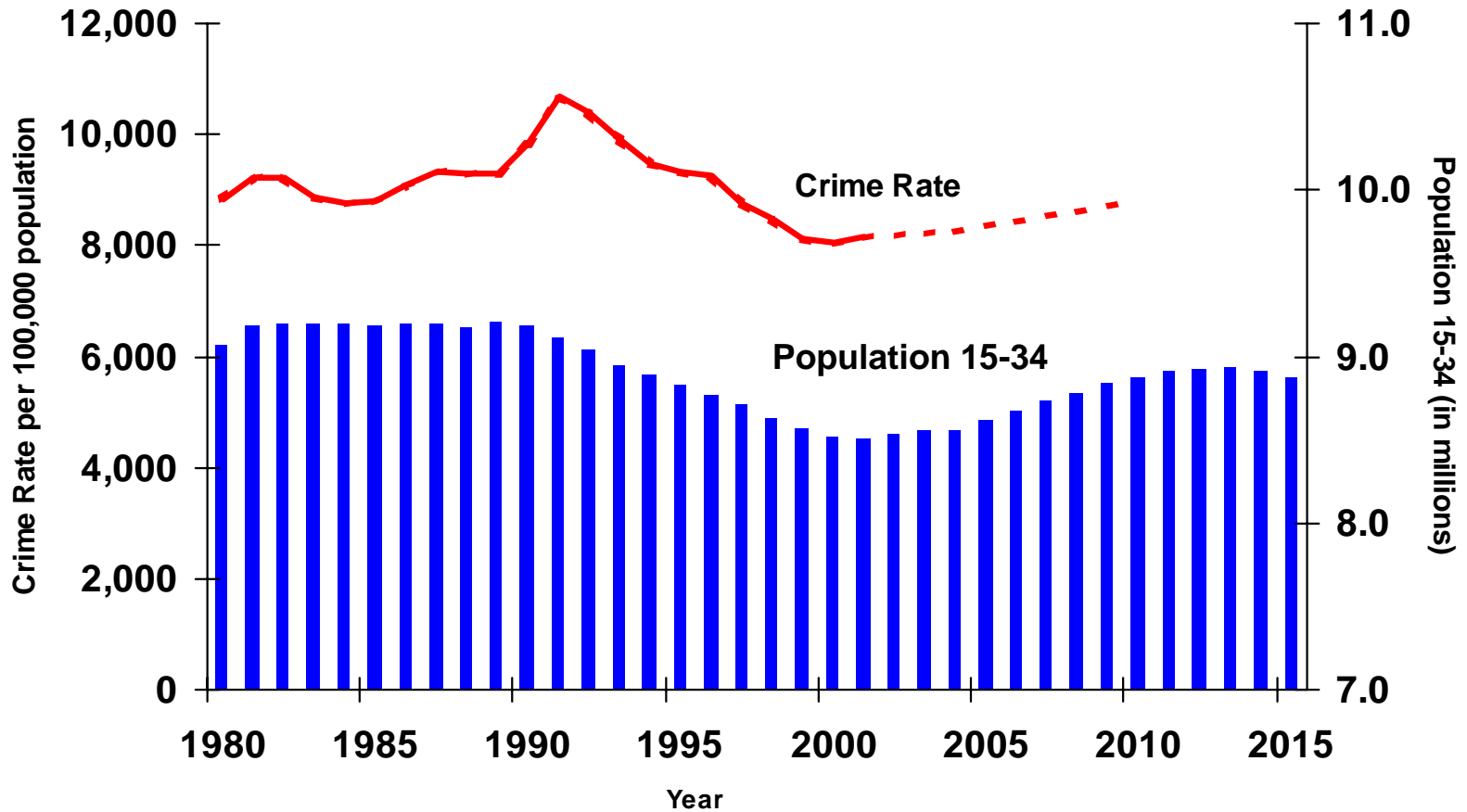


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

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



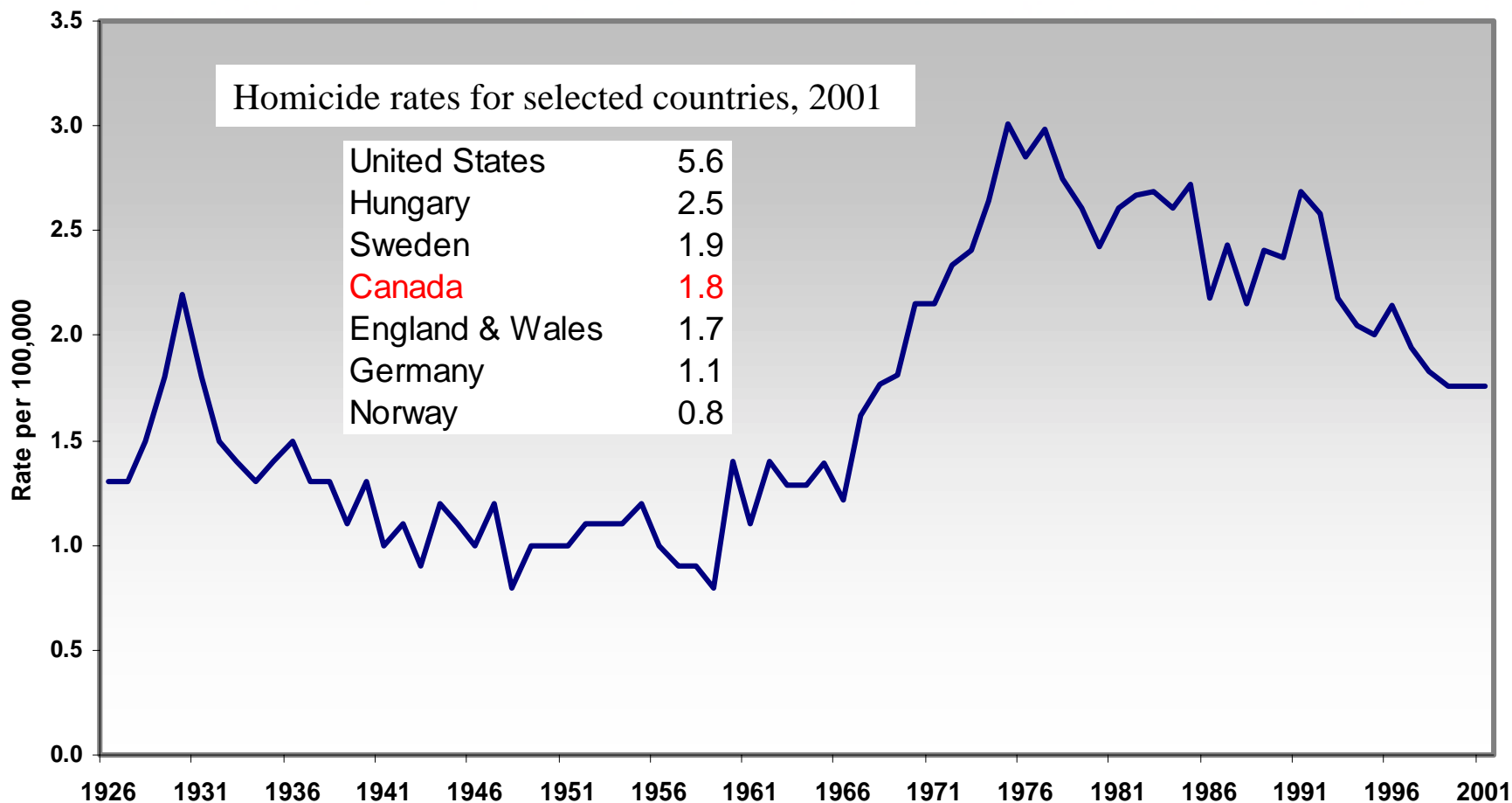
Proportion of Young Persons and Crime Rate



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Justice Canada
 Source: UCRI and Population Projections, Statistics Canada



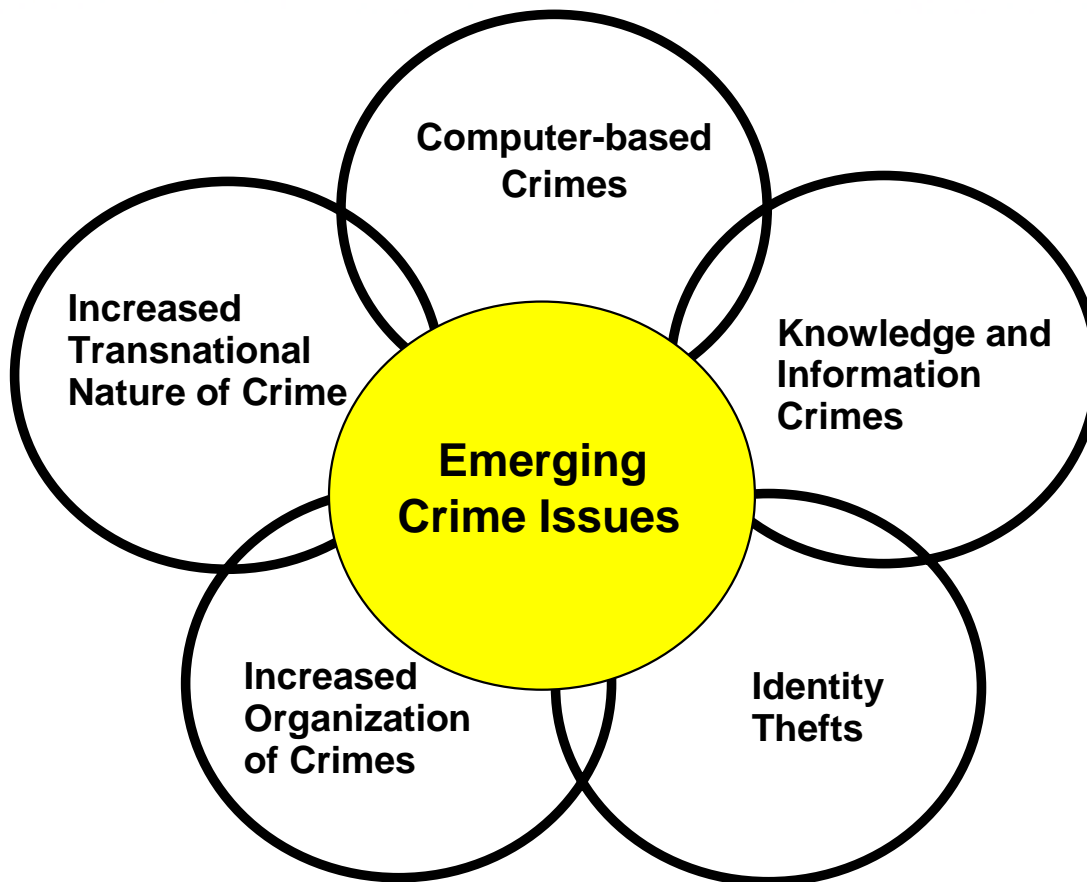
Canadian Homicide Rate, 1926-2001



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Justice Canada
 Source: Homicide Survey, Statistics Canada, 2001 and Interpol.



The Nature of Crime is Changing



Prepared by: Research and Statistics Division, Justice Canada



The Nature of Social Values is Changing

- According to CROP 3SC Survey there has been a marked shift in the socio-cultural make-up of Canadians over the past five years. The values, motivations, and hot buttons of citizens are changing.
- In 1996, 39% of Canadians considered themselves to be focussed on self-development, considering their physical and moral well-being very important while indicating the importance of caring for others. In 2001, 21% felt this way.
- Growth in the proportion of people who feel excluded and/or adhere to conservative values has risen from 16% of the population in 1996, to 30% in 2001.
 - Feeling excluded = feeling of no rightful place in society
 - Conservative = seeking security and stability on the basis of traditional values.



What do these data tell us?

- All too often crime is viewed as a national phenomenon but it is at the community level that the impact of crime is felt.
- National indicators of crime should not be the sole measures of well-being and security. The public's sense of well-being will always be affected by a wide-spread awareness of isolated instances.
- As the Canadian population becomes increasingly more diverse, it is inevitable that social values will change as well.