

## **CORE DEFINITIONS**

### **Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey**

**To enquire about the enclosed concepts or definitions please contact the  
YCCS survey staff at (613) 951-3192**

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## PURPOSE

This document is intended to assist aggregate data respondents in completing the standard data tables for the Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) survey.

The document contains a list of the basic concepts and definitions employed by the survey, most of which are based on the YCCS National Data Requirements (September 1990) developed and approved by the Liaison Officers Committee, National Justice Statistics Initiative.

The development of National Data Requirements for any survey is vital to establishing a uniform set of concepts that are comparable across jurisdictions as well as over time. The application of uniform definitions and maintenance of comparable data is part of the mandate of the National Justice Statistics Initiative.

Survey respondents providing aggregate data should inform the YCCS survey staff if they are unable to apply the core definitions to specific concepts (e.g., admission) and to what extent their data differ from the core definitions. Highlighting these variances will allow the survey to notify data users if such differences exist, and will help to facilitate the development and application of uniform definitions as the survey evolves.

## CORE DEFINITIONS

**Aboriginal Status:** Indicates whether the youth is Aboriginal. Aboriginal status includes North American Indian, Métis and Inuit whether registered or not. Please note that this variable is self-reported and data availability varies among jurisdictions.

**Admission:** Refers to the youth's commencement of an uninterrupted period of supervision (aggregate) by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody and probation). A new admission is counted at the commencement of each program type.

**Age:** Refers to the age of the young person at the time of admission into a custody status or community program.

**Aggregate sentence:** The earliest start date and the latest end date within a specific status.

**Custody and Supervision - Community Portion:** The period of time, or the portion of the young persons youth sentence that must, with exception of completing an application for continuation of custody, be served in the community.

**Custody and Supervision – Custodial Portion:** The period of time, or the portion of, the young persons youth sentence that must be served in custody before he or she begins to serve the remainder under community supervision.

**Deferred Custody:** Like a conditional sentence within adult sentencing, deferred custody is a community-based alternative to a custodial sentence. Under a deferred custody order, the young person will serve his or her sentence in the community under a set of strict conditions. If these conditions are not followed, the young person may be sent to custody to serve the balance of that sentence.

**Extrajudicial Sanctions:** An action other than a judicial proceeding used to deal with a young person alleged to have committed an offence. Participants in extrajudicial sanctions program may or may not have been charged by the police. Information on extrajudicial sanctions is not within the scope of the YCCS survey. The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics administers a separate survey concerning extrajudicial sanctions.

**Initial Entry:** The status representing the first point at which a youth commences uninterrupted supervision.

**Mean:** The *mean* of a population is obtained by adding up the values of every observation in the population and then dividing the result by the number of observations in the population.

**Median:** The *median* of a population is referred to as the midpoint of a distribution, once the distribution has been arranged from the lowest to highest value, where an equal number of observations are above and below this point.

**Most Serious Offence Categorization:** Admissions are categorized according to the offence violation codes in the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) (see Appendix A). The most serious offence in each admission should be determined in accordance with the CCJS's courts-based offence seriousness ranking (see Appendix B).

**Open custody:** A facility is considered "open" when there is minimal use of security devices or perimeter security. The extent to which facilities are "open" varies across jurisdictions. Open custody facilities include community residential centres, group homes, childcare institutions, forest or wilderness camps etc.

**Probation:** A common type of community-based sentence, where the young person is placed under the supervision of a probation officer or other designated person. Unsupervised probation orders are excluded.

**Provincial Director Remand:** To hold a young person in custody following the breach of community supervision conditions pursuant to a warrant issued by the Provincial Director.

**Release:** Refers to the completion of an uninterrupted period of supervision by the Provincial/Territorial Director within a specific status (i.e., remand, secure and open custody, community supervision and probation). For the YCCS survey, a new release is counted at the completion of each program type.

**Remand/Pre-trial Detention:** To hold a young person temporarily in custody, while awaiting trial or sentencing.

**Reporting Period:** The reference time period (e.g., fiscal year – April 1 to March 31) during which a youth must be active in order to be extracted for YCCS survey purposes. A youth is active if he/she is under the supervision of the Provincial/Territorial Director of youth corrections (e.g., serving a sentence, or under community supervision).

**Secure Custody:** A facility is considered “secure” when young persons are detained by security devices, including those facilities which operate with full perimeter security features and/or where youths are under constant observation. The extent to which facilities are “secure” varies across jurisdictions.

**Sentence:** Under the YCJA, a youth justice court orders a sentence upon finding a young person guilty of an offence. Sentence types include the following:

- a) Custodial Sentences: include Custody and Supervision - open, and custody and supervision – secure; and
- b) Community Supervision: includes intensive support and supervision, deferred custody and supervision, supervised probation, community service order, personal service order, compensation, restitution, or any other sentence deemed appropriate.

**Sentence Length:** This refers to the aggregate sentence or total amount of continuous days for a particular sentence that a young person is ordered to serve under the *Young Offenders Act or the Youth Criminal Justice Act*. The specific amount of days must be for an uninterrupted period of time during which the youth is under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director. For multiple **custodial sentences** (i.e., secure and open custody), if sentences are concurrent then the sentence length is the longest sentence; if the sentences are consecutive, then the sentence length is the sum of all custodial sentences; and if sentences are both concurrent and consecutive then the aggregate sentence is the sum of both types as calculated above.

**Sentenced Custody:** Refers to both secure and open custody.

**Status of Supervision:** The program status in which the young person is under the responsibility of correctional services (e.g., secure custody, open custody, pre-trial detention, probation or other community supervision).

**Time Served:** Refers to the aggregate time served or total amount of days a young person spent upon completion of an uninterrupted period of time under a particular status during which time the youth was under the authority of the Provincial/Territorial Director.

**Young Person (YCJA)/Young Offender (YOA:** A person who is twelve years of age or older, but less than eighteen years of age, at the time of committing an offence.

## Appendix A

### Mapping of Offences to YCCS Tables 6, 10, 15 and 20

Column Heading for Tables	UCR2 * Violation Code	Description of Offence
<b>Assault Level 2</b>	1420	Assault with weapon or causing bodily harm – Level 2
<b>Common assault</b>	1430	Assault – Level 1
<b>Sexual assault</b>	1310 1320 1330	Aggravated sexual assault Sexual assault with a weapon Sexual assault
<b>Robbery</b>	1610	Robbery
<b>Other violent</b>	1110 1120 1130 1140 1150 1160 1210 1220 1340 1410 1440 1450 1460 1470 1480 1510 1520 1530 1540 1545 1550 1560 1620 1625 1627 1628 1629 1630 3530	Murder 1 <sup>st</sup> degree Murder 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree Manslaughter Infanticide Criminal negligence causing death Other related offences causing death Attempted murder Conspire to commit murder Other sexual offences Aggravated assault – Level 3 Unlawfully causing bodily harm Discharge firearm with intent Assault against peace-public officer Criminal negligence causing bodily harm Other assaults Kidnapping Hostage-taking Abduction under 14 Abduction under 16 Removal of children from Canada (effective 01-01-98) Abduction contravening a custody order Abduction – no custody order Extortion Criminal harassment (effective 01-01-94) Utter threats to person (effective 01-01-98) Explosives causing death/bodily harm (effective 01-01-98) Arson – disregard for human life (effective 01-05-99) Other violent violations Threatening/harassing phone calls
<b>B &amp; E</b>	2120	Break and enter
<b>Theft \$5,000 &amp; under</b>	2140	Theft \$5,000 and under
<b>Theft over \$5,000</b>	2130	Theft over \$5,000
<b>Possession stolen goods</b>	2150	Have stolen goods

<b>Column Heading for Tables</b>	<b>UCR2 * Violation Code</b>	<b>Description of Offence</b>
<b>Mischief</b>	2170	Mischief – property damage
	2172	Mischief over \$5,000
	2174	Mischief \$5,000 or under
<b>Other property</b>	2110	Arson
	2160	Fraud
	3420	Counterfeiting currency
<b>Other CC</b>	3110	Prostitution – bawdy house
	3115	Prostitution under 18 – living off the avails (effective 01-01-98)
	3120	Prostitution – procuring
	3125	Prostitution – communicates for purpose of sex under 18 (effective 01-01-98)
	3130	Other prostitution
	3210	Betting house
	3220	Gaming house
	3230	Other gaming and betting
	3310	Explosives
	3320	Prohibited weapons (expired 01-12-98)
	3330	Restricted weapons (expired 01-12-98)
	3340	Firearm transfers/serial numbers (expired 01-12-98)
	3350	Other offensive weapons (expired 01-12-98)
	3360	Using firearms/imitation (effective 01-12-98)
	3365	Weapons trafficking (effective 01-12-98)
	3370	Weapons possession contrary to order (effective 01-12-98)
	3375	Possession of weapons (effective 01-12-98)
	3380	Unauthorized importing/exporting of weapons (effective 01-12-98)
	3385	Pointing a firearm (effective 01-12-98)
	3390	Firearms documentation/administration (effective 01-12-98)
	3395	Unsafe storage of firearms (effective 01-12-98)
	3410	Bail violations
	3430	Disturb the peace
	3440	Escape custody
	3450	Indecent acts
	3455	Production/distribution of child pornography (effective 01-01-98)
	3460	Public morals
	3461	Luring child via computer (effective 23-07-02)
	3470	Obstruct public peace officer
	3480	Prisoner unlawfully at large
	3490	Trespass at night
	3510	Fail to appear
	3520	Breach of probation
	3710	Offences against public order (Part II CC)
	3711	Property or services for terrorist activity (effective 01-01-02)
	3712	Freezing of property, disclosure, audit (effective 01-01-02)
	3713	Participate in activity of terrorist group (effective 01-01-02)
3714	Facilitate terrorist activity (effective 01-01-02)	
3715	Instruction/commission of act of terrorism (effective 01-01-02)	
3716	Harbour or conceal terrorist (effective 01-01-02)	
3720	Firearms and other offensive weapons (Part III CC)	
3730	Offences against the administration of law and justice (Part IV CC)	

<b>Column Heading for Tables</b>	<b>UCR2 * Violation Code</b>	<b>Description of Offence</b>	
<b>Other CC continued</b>	3740	Sexual offences, public morals and disorderly conduct (Part V CC)	
	3750	Invasion of privacy (Part VI CC)	
	3760	Disorderly houses, gaming and betting (Part VII CC)	
	3770	Offences against the person and reputation (Part VIII CC)	
	3780	Offences against the rights of property (Part IX CC)	
	3790	Fraudulent transactions relating to contracts and trade (Part X CC)	
	3791	Intimidation of justice system participant (effective 01-01-02)	
	3810	Wilful and forbidden acts in respect of certain property (Part XI CC)	
	3820	Offences related to currency (Part XII CC)	
	3825	Proceeds of crime (CC) (effective 01-01-98)	
	3830	Attempts, conspiracies, accessories (Part XIII CC)	
	3840	Instruct offence for criminal organization (effective 01-01-02)	
	3841	Commit offence for criminal organization (effective 01-01-02)	
	3842	Participate in activities of criminal organization (effective 01-01-02)	
	3890	All other Criminal Code (includes Parts XII.1 CC)	
			Traffic violations:
		9110	Dangerous operation causing death
		9120	Dangerous operation causing bodily harm
		9130	Dangerous operation of motor vehicle, vessel or aircraft
		9131	Dangerous operation evading police causing death
		9132	Dangerous operation evading police causing bodily-harm
		9133	Operation of motor vehicle evading police
		9210	Impaired operation causing death
		9220	Impaired operation causing bodily harm
		9230	Impaired operation of motor vehicle, vessel or aircraft or over 80 mg
		9240	Failure to provide breath sample
		9250	Failure to provide blood sample
		9310	Failure to stop or remain
		9320	Driving while prohibited
		9330	Other Criminal Code traffic violations
	<b>Drug related</b>	4110	Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) possession of heroin
		4120	CDSA possession of cocaine
		4130	Other CDSA possession
		4140	CDSA possession of cannabis
		4210	CDSA trafficking of heroin
4220		CDSA trafficking of cocaine	
4230		Other CDSA trafficking	
4240		CDSA trafficking of cannabis	
4310		CDSA importation and production of heroin	
4320		CDSA importation and production of cocaine	
		4330	Other CDSA importation and production
		4340	CDSA importation and production of cannabis
		4440	CDSA production of cannabis
		4825	Proceeds of crime (CDSA) (expired 01-02-02)
		4990	Other Controlled Drugs and Substances Act offences
	5120-		
	5220	Food and Drug Act (expired 01-06-97)	
<b>YCJA/YOA</b>	6450	Young Offenders Act (expired 31-03-03)	
	6450	Youth Criminal Justice Act (effective 01-04-03)	

<b>Column Heading for Tables</b>	<b>UCR2 * Violation Code</b>	<b>Description of Offence</b>
<b>Other Federal</b>	6100	Bankruptcy Act
	6150	Income Tax Act
	6200	Canada Shipping Act
	6250	Canada Health Act
	6300	Customs Act
	6350	Competition Act
	6400	Excise Act
	6500	Immigration & Refugee Protection Act
	6550	Firearms Act (effective 01-12-98)
	6560	National Defence Act (effective 01-01-02)
6900	Other federal statutes	
<b>Provincial/municipal</b>	n/a	Provincial statutes offence
		Territorial statutes offence
		Municipal statutes offence
<b>Unknown</b>	n/a	Offence group not found in library

\* Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey - Incident-Based