

Approximately two-thirds of all property related crime is comprised of thefts of over and under \$1,000 and of motor vehicles; break and enter offences account for a further 25% of property crimes.

Increases were recorded in 1991 in all property crime categories. Theft of motor vehicles increased by 20% from 1990, break and enters by 13%, possession of stolen goods by 13%, theft over and under \$1,000 by 7%, and fraud offences by 3%.

### C. Drugs

In 1991, the offence rate under the *Narcotics Control Act* was 203 offences per 100,000 population. Cannabis offences comprised 58% of all drug offences. The rate of cannabis offences declined by 16% from 1990 and the rate of cocaine increased by 25%.

## CRIME VICTIMIZATION—1987

The preceding section describes offences that have been reported by the public or that have otherwise come to the attention of police; however, crimes known to police do not represent the totality of criminal occurrences. Many crimes are not detected or reported. Victimization surveys collect information about crimes that are detected and that have a direct victim but are not reported. Such surveys ask people whether they have been victims of acts defined as criminal by the *Criminal Code*.

As mentioned earlier, in 1988 Statistics Canada conducted a national crime victimization survey in which a representative sample of Canadians were questioned about their experience with personal and household crime and the criminal justice system during the previous year.<sup>10</sup> Eight crime categories were surveyed, four of them comprising offences against the person (sexual assault, robbery, assault, theft of personal property) and four comprising household offences (break and enter, theft of motor vehicles or vehicle parts, theft of household property, and vandalism).

It was found that an estimated 4.8 million Canadians, or 24% of Canadian adults 15 years and over, were the victims of 5.4 million criminal incidents in 1987. (This compares with 2.4 million *Criminal Code* offences recorded officially during that year.<sup>11</sup>) Crimes against households comprised 40% of the victimizations. Personal offences accounted for more than one half (53%) of the incidents—31% involved violent offences and 22% theft of personal property. Only 40% of the victimizations revealed in the survey were reported to the police.

## COSTS OF CRIME

Processing the consequences of crime—apprehending, prosecuting, sentencing, incarcerating and treating offenders—costs Canadian taxpayers billions of dollars annually. In 1989-90, the services of the Canadian criminal justice system cost \$7.7 billion to maintain and employed over

<sup>10</sup> Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Vol. 10, No. 16, (October 1990).

<sup>11</sup> Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, *Juristat, Crime Trends in Canada, 1962-1990*, Vol. 12, No. 7, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, Ottawa, March 1992.