

Fact Sheet

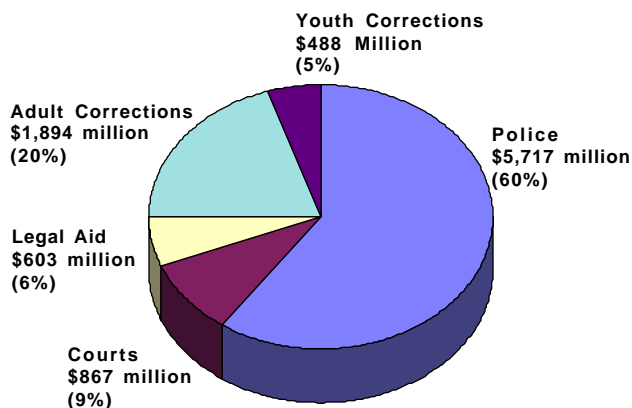
#6

in a series of fact sheets that examine questions frequently asked about the criminal justice system.

September 1995

Crime Control and Public Expenditure

**Canadian Criminal Justice System
Total Spending by Sector
1992-1993**



Total: \$9.57 Billion

Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Juristat 14(16)

In these days of concern about the debt and the deficit, Canadians are worried about their ability to sustain systems of universal medical care, quality publicly-funded education and income support for vulnerable people in society. At the federal level, funding to the provinces for health, education and social services cannot keep up with the increasing needs in these areas and the current levels of funding are under scrutiny and review. At the provincial level in Ontario, plans are under way to cut the income of a family of four on social assistance by approximately 18%. We are constantly being told that government expenditures must be reduced and that tough choices

must be made which will provide Canadians with a frayed social safety net.

The cost of the criminal justice system, however, is rarely discussed in this debate about public expenditures. With an incarceration rate of 129.6 per 100,000 population, Canada ranks third highest among Western countries surveyed (Correctional Services Canada 1993). Seldom do we hear debates about our over-reliance on incarceration and the related costs. Our focus on the "police, courts and corrections" model of crime control limits our ability to control costs and to examine alternatives which are less costly and more effective both in human and economic terms. Seldom do we hear demands for scrutiny and review of this approach.

The information presented in this fact sheet highlights the increasing costs in all of the sectors of the criminal justice system. The costs will continue to grow unless there is a shift in our police, courts and corrections approach to reduce crime. We should remember that, in these times of restraint, more dollars for the criminal justice system mean fewer dollars for health, education and social services.

Police



The operating costs of municipal, provincial and federal policing in Canada increased 10.2% from \$5.25 billion in 1990/91 to \$5.79 billion in 1993/94. In a nine year period between 1985 and 1993, total Canadian policing costs increased 63%.

Juristat 15 (8)

In 1993, policing cost each Canadian \$200 - an increase of 46% since 1985.

Juristat 15 (8)

In 1993, the average cost of each police officer in Canada was \$101,742 (including salary, benefits, training and overhead). From 1985 to 1993, the number of police officers has risen from 50,352 to 56,873 (13%) and the average cost of each police officer has increased 45% .

Juristat 15 (8)

In 1993, the average cost of each of the 21,087 police officers in Ontario was \$99,632. In 1990, when there were 20,685 police officers in Ontario, the average cost per police officer was \$88,875.

Juristat 15 (8)
Juristat 11 (17)

Total operating expenditures for policing in Ontario was \$2.1 billion in 1993, an increase of 14% since 1990.

Juristat 15 (8)
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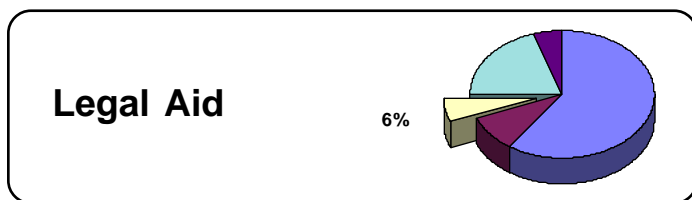
Excluding federal policing, policing in Ontario cost each resident \$175 per year. If federal policing costs are added in, the per capita cost rises to \$194.

Juristat 15 (8)

In a study commissioned by the Solicitor General of Canada in 1991, it was estimated that an additional 10 police officers would have to be hired to put 1 additional police officer on the street in order to provide 24 hour coverage allowing for time off street activities, vacation and sick time.

Bayley 1991

On the basis of the 10 to 1 ratio, increasing the visibility of the police on the street by one officer costs almost \$1 million in Ontario.



In 1992/93, criminal and civil legal aid services in Canada cost \$603 million.

Juristat 14 (16)

The cost for legal aid services increased 101% between 1988/89 and 1992/93.

Juristat 14 (16)

Based on population estimates, the cost to each Canadian citizen for Legal Aid in 1992/93 was \$21 - an increase of 89% from \$11 in 1988/89.

Juristat 14 (16)

The number of approved applications for Legal Aid in Canada rose 43% over the five year period ending in 1992/93.

Juristat 14 (16)

The cost for legal aid services in Ontario has risen from \$174 million in 1988/89 to \$321 million in 1992/93 - an increase of 84%.

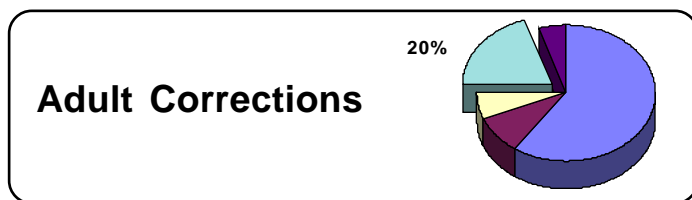
Ontario Legal Aid Plan Annual Report

While the average cost per case remained stable, applications for Legal Aid in Ontario increased 56% and the number of certificates granted increased 67% between 1988/89 and 1992/93.

Ontario Legal Aid Plan Annual Report

Because of the federal government's cap on its contribution to Legal Aid, the federal government's contribution increased 12% while the Ontario government's contribution increased 202% between 1988/89 and 1992/93. Even with these increases in funding, the Ontario Legal Aid Plan reported an operating deficit of \$6.4 million in 1992/93.

Ontario Legal Aid Plan Annual Report



Excluding capital costs, adult correctional services in Canada cost \$1.88 billion in 1993/94. Federal corrections cost \$882 million while \$994 million was spent on provincial corrections.

Adult Correctional Services in Canada

For the five year period ending in 1993/94, the cost of federal corrections increased 9% while provincial corrections increased 19%.

Adult Correctional Services in Canada

Adult correctional services in Canada cost each Canadian \$65 in 1993/94.

Adult Correctional Services in Canada

The average annual cost of keeping an inmate in a federal penitentiary in 1992/93 was \$47,760 (\$131/day). These costs include the operating costs associated with the running of the institution only and do not include parole related costs, staff training or headquarters' costs.

Basic Facts about Corrections 1993

The average cost of keeping an inmate in a federal penitentiary has decreased in the five year period ending in 1993/94 largely due to the increasing prison population. While

the operating costs of running an institution remained relatively stable, the average daily number of inmates in federal penitentiaries increased by 16% during this period.

Adult Correctional Services in Canada

The average annual cost of supervising a federal offender on parole or statutory release was \$9,422 (\$26/day).

Basic Facts about Corrections 1993

Correctional Services Canada projects that the population of federal prisons will increase from 13,322 in 1993/94 to over 18,000 by the year 2000. The cost of building a new 400 cell federal prison is estimated to be \$60 million (\$150,000 per prison cell). To accommodate the expected growth, the Correctional Services of Canada would need to build at least 9 new prisons.

Correctional Services Canada
Auditor General's Report

The average annual cost of keeping an inmate in a provincial custody facility in Ontario was \$48,016 (\$132/day) in 1993/94.

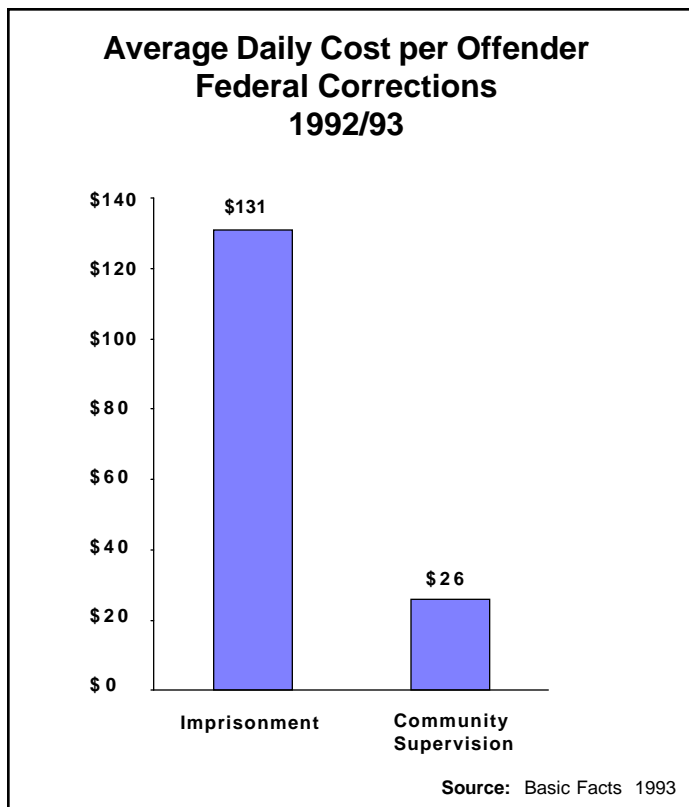
Adult Correctional Services in Canada

Spending on adult corrections in Ontario increased 16% between 1989/90 and 1993/94.

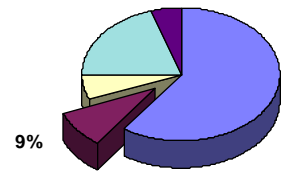
Adult Correctional Services in Canada

The cost to each Ontario resident for adult correctional services was \$40 in 1993/94.

Adult Correctional Services in Canada



Courts



\$867 million was spent on the administration of criminal, civil and family courts in Canada in 1992/93.

Juristat 14 (16)

The cost of courts to each Canadian was \$30 in 1992/93 - an increase of 20% from \$25 in 1988/89.

Juristat 14 (16)

Juristat 11 (17)

Court expenditures rose 13% between 1991/92 and 1992/93 and increased 35% between 1988/89 and 1992/93.

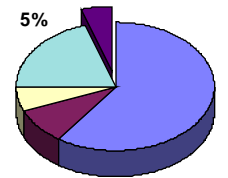
Juristat 14 (16)

Ontario's spending on court services in 1990/91 was \$267 million - an increase of 26% from 1988/89.

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Juristat 11 (3)

Youth Corrections



In 1992/93, governments spent \$488 million on correctional services for youth. The cost to each Canadian citizen for that year was \$17.

Juristat 14 (16)

The costs of youth correctional services in Canada increased 37% between 1988/89 and 1992/93.

Juristat 14 (16)

Ontario spent \$239 million on youth corrections in 1993/94. Approximately 70% (\$167 million) is spent on custody.

Office of Youth Justice

It cost \$237 per day to keep a young person age 16 and 17 in a secure custody facility. The cost for an open custody facility for this age group is \$167 per day. The annual costs are \$86,505 for secure custody and \$60,955 for open custody.

Ministry of Correctional Services

A secure custody facility for 12 to 15 year-olds was recently built outside of Kingston, Ontario at a cost of \$2.5 million. The operating expenses were estimated at \$1.3 million per year. The maximum capacity of this facility is 10 youths. (Estimated cost = \$356 per youth per day.)

Kingston Whig Standard

Between 1989/90 and 1993/94, the average daily number of sentenced young offenders in secure custody in Ontario rose from 736 to 813 (10.5%) and in open custody from 698 to 922 (32%).

Corrections Key Indicator Report

Over 3/4 of young persons who are sent to custody have been sentenced for a non-violent offence. It has been estimated that it costs between \$240 million and \$267 million per year to keep non-violent young offenders in custody in Canada.

Doob, Marinos and Varma 1995

In Context . . .

From 1992/93 to 1993/94, the federal government decreased its transfer payments for:

- unemployment insurance by 8% from \$19.1 billion to \$17.6 billion
- social housing by 5% from \$2 billion to 1.9 billion
- health by 13% from \$8.3 billion to \$7.2 billion
- education by 17% from \$2.9 billion to \$2.4 billion

Total federal government transfer payments for social programs went from \$67.8 billion to \$63.9 billion - a decrease of 6%.

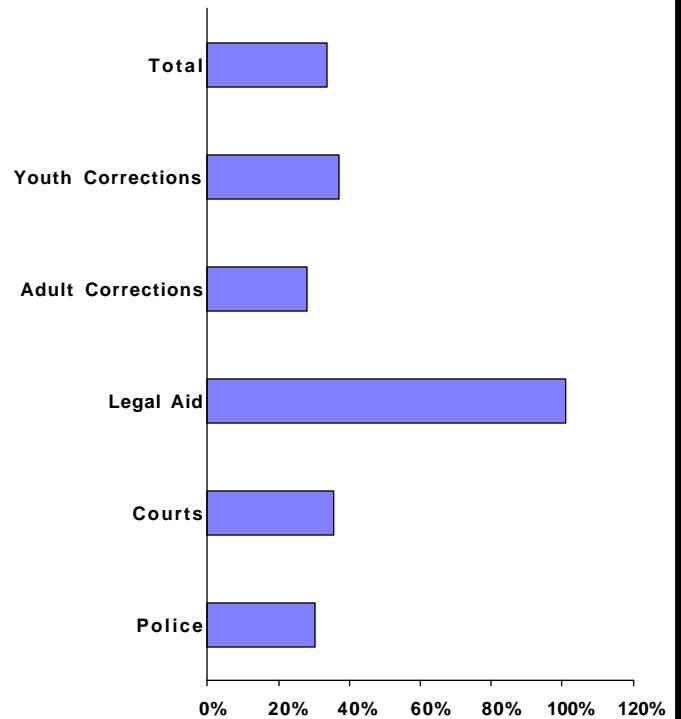
Auditor General's Report

In Canada from 1989 to 1993:

- the unemployment rate increased from 7.5% to 11.3%
- the numbers of families experiencing unemployment increased from 776,000 to 1,144,000
- the percentage of families with low incomes increased from 10.9% to 14.4%
- the child poverty rate increased from 14.5% to 20.8%

Statistics Canada
National Council of Welfare

Percentage Change in Criminal Justice Spending Total and by Sector 1988-89 to 1992-93



Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics Juristat 14 (16)

The John Howard Society is an organization of citizens who accept responsibility for understanding and dealing with the problems of crime and the criminal justice system.

If you would like more information about the John Howard Society or you would like to contribute to the work of the Society, please write or contact us by phone at:

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