

# **A PROFILE OF YOUTH OFFENDERS IN CALGARY: AN INTERIM REPORT**

Submitted to:

The City of Calgary and  
the Alberta Law Foundation

Submitted by:

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March 2008

The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, the City of Calgary, the Alberta Law Foundation, or the Calgary Police Service.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

The Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family (CRILF) is conducting a three-year study of youth offending in Calgary with funding from the City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services (Year 1) and the Alberta Law Foundation. The objectives of this study are to:

1. identify how the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* has affected the flow of cases through the youth justice system in Alberta and the workload for various components of the provincial youth justice system;
2. develop a model for predicting why some Calgary youth become serious habitual offenders (SHOs), while others do not; and
3. build a knowledge base for the City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services, Calgary Police Service and other relevant provincial-based agencies for increasing their effectiveness and efficiency by conducting an environmental scan of current best practices in Canada related to:
  - predictors (risk and protective factors) of offending by youth;
  - use of decision making instruments and protocols across Canada; and
  - programs targeted at chronic/persistent youth offenders across Canada.

The investigation of these objectives was planned over a three-year period and will result in a number of research reports. The activities for Year 1 of the study, which focussed primarily on Objective #2, are the focus of this report.

## Methodology

The objective of the first year of this three-year study of youth offending in Calgary was to establish the foundation of a model to predict why some youth become more seriously involved in crime than others. Three major questions directed the research:

1. What are the contemporary trends of youth crime in Calgary?
2. How do the criminal histories of Serious Habitual Offenders (SHOs) in Calgary differ from those of non-SHOs?
3. What characteristics (i.e., demographic, familial, educational, community, interpersonal) and experiences (i.e., delinquency, gang involvement) differentiate youth in Calgary with various levels of involvement with the law?

To answer these questions, two major strategies were adopted:

1. An aggregate examination of the characteristics of youth crime in Calgary and the criminal histories of SHOs compared to non-SHOs using data from the Calgary Police Service Police Information Management System (PIMS); and
2. An in-depth examination of a cohort of youth who ranged from having minimal criminal involvement to serious criminal involvement. Interviews, probation file reviews, and reviews of Justice Online Information Network (JOIN) records were conducted with youth belonging to four different study groups:
  - Serious Habitual Offenders (SHOs): Youth who have been identified by a Multi-Disciplinary Resource Team and the Calgary Police Service according to specific criteria.
  - Chronic Offenders: Youth who have five or more substantive criminal incidents of which they have been found guilty (not including SHOs).
  - One-time Offenders: Youth who have one substantive criminal incident of which they have been found guilty (with no subsequent charges pending).
  - Gateway Participants: Youth who have come into contact with police but have been diverted pre-charge to Gateway, an extrajudicial measures program administered by City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Calgary Police Service.

These strategies yielded an incredibly rich source of data, both reinforcing and adding to past findings regarding the criminal involvement of youth.

## **Summary of Findings**

### Crime and Delinquency Among Calgary's Youth Offenders

In general, the characteristics of youth crime in Calgary matched common demographic patterns among youth offenders in the reported literature. Most youth offences in Calgary in 2006 were committed by males of approximately 16 years of age. Property offences were the most common. Male youth were more likely to be involved in crimes against the person than females, who were most commonly involved in property crimes. The aggregate analysis demonstrated that males were more often charged for their offences, which is reflected in part by the fact that a substantial proportion of the female youth interviewed belonged to the Gateway group – having been diverted away from being charged to an extrajudicial measures program.

Other studies (e.g., Smith et al., 1995; Graham & Bowling, 1995) have demonstrated that although SHOs compose only a small proportion of all youth offenders, they are responsible for a disproportionately high proportion of youth crime. Not only did the aggregate analysis from the current study reveal a similar pattern, the JOIN information for the study cohort revealed that, on average, SHOs are involved in

substantially more criminal incidents than non-SHOs, also having a higher average number of incidents where charges were laid. Our findings also suggest that the criminal involvement for serious youth offenders escalates at an early age. Although self-report data indicated that youths' first contact with police was at roughly the same age across all groups, PIMS data demonstrated that SHOs had an earlier onset of recorded criminal contact than non-SHOs, and were more likely to be charged at younger ages. Further, this behaviour escalated at a substantially higher rate, peaking at age 14 (compared to age 16 for non-SHOs) before gradually decreasing in subsequent years. Thus, although most youth might have their first contacts with police at roughly the same age, more official measures were taken with the youth who would eventually become SHOs. Possible explanations for this could be the greater level of seriousness or frequency of their behaviour, or the possibility that these youth were in higher risk situations (i.e., run-aways, drug users, etc.). The significance of age 14 as the peak for SHOs criminal activity is similar to the findings from an earlier Calgary school-based study, which demonstrated that youths' self-reported delinquency peaks in Grade 9 (Paetsch & Bertrand, 1999). Criminal behaviour for non-SHOs, on the other hand, peaked at age 16, then decreased slightly.

While one might theorize that the tendency to charge SHOs at younger ages may be due to extrajudicial measures (EJMs) not being used, the findings from this study suggest otherwise: the use of extrajudicial measures is surprisingly more common for more serious offenders. Both the aggregate and JOIN data indicated that SHOs were more likely than non-SHOs to receive EJMs, with SHOs and Chronic offenders being more likely to receive EJMs for more than one incident. The reason for this is not certain, but may be explained by the fact that, given many SHOs and Chronic offenders have extensive contact with the criminal justice system, EJMs may offer solutions that have not yet been tried through traditional sanctions. Although the rate of successful completion of EJMs was high amongst all groups, it is clear that their effect is not lasting for some youth.

The early escalation of criminal behaviour among more serious offenders is accompanied by an escalation of the seriousness of their offences. Although both the aggregate and individual data demonstrated that property offences were clearly the most prominent amongst all groups, more seriously involved youth have a greater likelihood of having been charged with more crimes against the person and at younger ages. Self-reported delinquency indicates that Chronic offenders and SHOs are more likely to threaten/use force or a weapon in their crimes. While charge data for Gateway clients were not available (by definition), self-reported delinquency indicates that they were more likely to be involved in minor theft, and to a slightly lesser extent, harassment.

Although charge data across groups do not indicate that drug-related crimes are among the most common offences, self-report data paints quite a different picture of drug involvement among the youth offender cohort. A majority of youth in all groups reported having used illegal drugs, ranging from just over half of the Gateway clients to all of the Chronic offenders and SHOs. Marijuana, ecstasy, and mushrooms were the most commonly used among all youth who had used drugs, and nearly all reported having used marijuana in particular in the past year. More criminally involved youth

tended to report use of harder drugs, particularly crack and cocaine. Although a substantial proportion of SHOs reported using these drugs, their reported use in the past year dropped off significantly – whether it be due to their being incarcerated, or due to their involvement in the Serious Habitual Offender Program (SHOP) and the possibility that they had been connected with addictions resources. Chronic offenders, however, were slightly more likely to report hard drug use in the past year, indicating the possibility that their drug use had not yet been addressed, or they simply hadn't engaged with the resources provided. Drug dealing was also common among more serious offenders, with a substantial majority having experience with both buying and selling drugs.

Based on the results from both the aggregate and cohort data analysis, weapons were not a significant issue in the reported crimes of Calgary's youth offenders. Although weapons were not being used in reported crimes to any great extent, and despite the fact that youth felt generally safe in their communities, youth are carrying weapons quite regularly. With the exception of Gateway clients, many respondents reported having taken a weapon to school or carrying one in the community, this tendency becoming greater for those more seriously involved in crime. Further, although not prominent in official records (i.e., PIMS, JOIN) self-report findings indicate that a substantial number of youth – particularly Chronic offenders and SHOs – have used weapons in the past.

### The Significance of Social Factors

Possible social explanations for why some youth become more seriously involved in crime than others were found in the interviews with youth. Clear disparities were discovered across social elements, beginning with noticeable differences regarding familial situations. Findings suggest that youth more seriously involved with crime tend to come from less stable family situations. More seriously involved offenders were more likely to come from single parent families, were considerably more likely to have experienced family violence, and were more likely to live somewhere other than with parents at the time of the interview – whether it be in a foster or group home, with another relative, or in custody. SHOs were more likely to live with parents than Chronic offenders, perhaps an indicator of program efforts to ensure greater stability for these youth. Nearly all of the more persistent offenders had run away from home at least once, and very few engaged in social or leisure activities with their families. The relative lack of familial and home stability for youth in these groups was contrasted by the cohort of Gateway youth, half of whom came from families where parents are still married, and all of whom lived with at least one parent. These youth demonstrated stronger attachments to their families, being significantly less likely to run away and significantly more likely to engage in leisure activities with their parents.

Involvement with child welfare adds a very telling component to the family situations of youth offenders. Whereas the Gateway and One-time offenders reported relatively low levels of child welfare contact, a significant majority of Chronic offenders and SHOs had been involved with child welfare at one point in their lives, many having been placed in foster and/or group home care. Nearly half of the Chronic offenders reported that they were living in a group or foster home at the time of the interview. This

high rate of involvement further demonstrates the high level of instability and lack of continuity in the family experiences of serious youth offenders.

Findings further suggested a disparity in peer associations. Interviews revealed that Gateway clients were most likely to meet their friends at school, have friends roughly the same age, and have their parents approve of their friends. Where Chronic offenders and SHOs were also meeting friends at school, substantial proportions reported having older friends and meeting their friends on the street or in jail. Self-reported delinquency indirectly supports the idea that more serious offenders associate with negative peers, being more likely to engage in delinquent acts with friends. For the most part, the parents of Chronic offenders and SHOs are more likely not to approve of their friends.

The tendency for more serious youth offenders to gravitate toward negative peers also finds support in levels of gang involvement. Where very few Gateway and One-time offenders reported recruitment by a gang, with only two reporting actual involvement, well over half of the Chronic offenders and SHOs had been recruited and/or been members of gangs. Whether involved or not, a large majority reported having friends that belonged to gangs. Although few youth reported current membership in a gang, only about half who were in gangs wanted to get out of them. As such, belonging to a gang plays an important social role to these youth, possibly related to the absence of a strong family presence.

The absence of positive adults and peers in the lives of persistent offenders (both Chronic offenders and SHOs) is further demonstrated in information regarding leisure activities. Where Gateway clients were significantly more likely to be involved in structured extra-curricular activities with adult leadership, this tendency drops off significantly even at the level of One-time offenders. A very small number of One-time offenders, Chronic offenders and SHOs reported involvement in sports, clubs, or other organizations in their free time, further demonstrating a lack of pro-social associations. This lack of participation could be explained in part by a lack of familial resources, given that Chronic offenders and SHOs were less likely to have two employed parents.

More persistent offenders also tended to struggle with school. As expected, school participation was strongest for Gateway clients, all of whom were attending school. Where this could be explained by their being slightly younger than the rest of the groups, Gateway youth were significantly less likely than the other groups to consider dropping out of school. Investment in school amongst the groups decreased with greater criminal involvement, with a substantial proportion of SHOs, Chronic offenders, and even One-time offenders reporting that they skip and have considered dropping out. Although two-thirds of the Chronic offenders reported that they were attending school, this may be slightly overrepresentative given many were interviewed in CYOC and were required to attend school.

Information on school problems adds a telling component to the differences among groups with regard to school experiences. Bullying and fighting were definitely issues for the youth in the study, with many of the Gateway clients and One-time offenders reporting being bullied and getting into fights at school. Chronic offenders

and SHOs were less likely to have been bullied, but all had gotten into fights at school. Nearly all of the One-time offenders, Chronic offenders, and SHOs had been suspended in the past. Aggressive behaviour in school was further evidenced by self-reported delinquency, with a majority of youth in all groups having reported harassing, threatening or bullying people, and for more seriously involved youth, doing this with a weapon.

Interview information relating to investment in pro-social activities and participation in school finds connections to the aggregate analysis and some significant findings with regard to time. Examination of the frequency of chargeable incidents by month revealed that more crimes are committed by youth during the first half of the year, not the summer as one might expect. This could be explained by the possibility that, as the school year progresses, youth are less invested in it and more invested in other potentially more negative influences. As such, they skip more toward the end of the year (March-June), with some potentially dropping out entirely after their first semester. The possibility that crimes are committed while youth should be in school is reinforced by both the day and time of day when crimes are being committed. The data demonstrate that more youth offending occurs during the week, and during school or after school – not on the weekends or in the evenings as might be expected. As revealed by the interviews, youth offenders – particularly Chronic offenders and SHOs – are committing crimes during times when supervision is minimal. A lack of investment in school (i.e., skipping, dropping out) and participation in after-school activities may explain this pattern.

### Responses to Youth Offenders

Sentencing data reveal a certain amount of contrast between offending groups, particularly with regard to type and effectiveness. One-time offenders most commonly received community-based sentences (i.e., probation, community service). The presence of fewer administration of justice charges (i.e., breaches of community sentences) suggests the relative success of community-based sentences for these groups, which could be explained by a greater amount of home and community stability. On the other hand, while Chronic offenders and SHOs also received a significant number of community-based sentences, the large number of administration of justice charges (i.e., breaches, failure to comply) for these groups indicates tremendous difficulty in fulfilling the conditions of these types of sentences, possibly due to a lack of stability in the community and/or a greater investment in a criminal lifestyle. This, combined with their participation in more serious crimes, likely results in the tendency for more serious offenders (particularly SHOs) to receive custodial terms and more intensive community sentences.

It is quite clear that youth offenders, particularly those involved in more serious or persistent offending, require a great deal of support. Results do indicate that youth offenders are being connected with psychological services, with a substantial majority reporting that they have received counselling, particularly among SHOs and Chronic offenders. However, it is clear that intensive adult support and positive associations continue to be lacking for youth more seriously involved in crime.

## **Conclusions**

The first year of CRILF's three-year study on youth offending has yielded a valuable starting point toward developing a model for predicting why some youth become more seriously involved in offending than others. Clearly, differences in social, individual, and offending characteristics exist among youth with varying levels of involvement with the law, and these factors all combine to affect a youth's ability to change their offending behaviour. It is difficult based on the current data to predict whether interventions with delinquent youth will successfully stop their criminal behaviour. Further, it is difficult to determine whether involvement in SHOP will be enough to help more criminally persistent youth stay away from a life of crime. However, the planned criminal record follow-ups with these youth at 12 and 24 months post-interview will aid in discovering which youth are able to avoid future involvement in crime, and the defining factors that assist them in doing so.

Given the richness of the data collected in Year 1 of the study, this project could only touch on the social background of the cohort of 123 youth who participated in the study. Provided this information, future initiatives may delve more deeply into some of the individual social factors that define the lives of these youth, and work towards developing more effective responses for youth.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of a number of individuals, agencies, and groups who made this project possible. First, we would like to thank Calgary City Council, City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services and Calgary Transit for providing funding for Year 1 of the study. Further, we would like to extend our gratitude to the Alberta Law Foundation, whose funding will allow this project to continue into 2009.

The authors would like recognize the special efforts of the project working group: Cathie Christensen and Cheryl Joynt of the City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services; Joel Porter and Stephen Hansen of Calgary Transit; and Inspector Bob Couture, Staff Sergeant Barry Harper, and Ms Cailen Henry of the Calgary Police Service. Their time and contributions were invaluable to the successful development and execution of the study. Special thanks to Doug Borch of the City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services for his dedication, support, and assistance through all stages of the project.

We further extend our gratitude to the members of our project advisory group, whose knowledge and guidance were greatly valued throughout the study: Chris Branch, Director of Community and Neighbourhood Services, City of Calgary; Fred Wong, Director of Transit, City of Calgary; Deputy Chief Dean Young, Calgary Police Service; The Honourable Heino Lilles (Ret.); and Mr. Lyle Stroeder, Saskatchewan Justice.

We would also like to acknowledge former members of the working group and advisory committee, Chief Rick Hanson, Inspector Doug de Grood, Staff Sergeant Harv Davies, former Inspector Brent Refvik, and Mr. Ron Smith of the Calgary Police Service, for their contributions to the early stages of the project.

Special thanks are also extended to the project's legal consultant, Professor Nicholas Bala of Queen's University, and criminology consultant, Dr. Peter Carrington of the University of Waterloo. Their expertise and guidance are invaluable resources, and we greatly value their time and commitment.

This project would not have been possible without the support of Dawn Chalas and the Alberta Solicitor General, who granted us permission to study youth offenders in the province. We would also like to thank Gail Thomsen and Alberta Justice for allowing us to access the Justice Online Information Network. Special thanks to the Calgary Police Service for granting access to the Police Information Management System (PIMS), and to Cailen Henry for all her efforts to provide us with the data.

CRILF would further like to acknowledge the efforts of Youth Probation in Calgary, a service delivered by the City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services. Tremendous gratitude is extended to all City of Calgary Youth Probation officers, who referred the youth participants and arranged interview times with the researchers. Their time and commitment to the project goals are greatly appreciated,

and the successful outcome of the study would not have been possible without their support. Special appreciation is also expressed to the City of Calgary Probation office administrators for accommodating the researchers during interview visits. The authors would further like to thank Janice Bidyk and Mike Lucia of the City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services/Calgary Police Service Gateway program for all their efforts to contact Gateway youth for the study. Further thanks are extended to Frank Vorstermans, Ramona Deer and Stephanie Decker and the Calgary Young Offender Centre for granting us access to the residents, arranging interviews, and accommodating the researchers' visits.

This project would not have been possible without the participation of all the youth involved in the study. Their trust, cooperation, and openness were invaluable, and we are tremendously grateful to them for all the information they were willing to provide about their lives.

From the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family, the authors extend sincere thanks to Ms Monica Pauls, former Coordinator of Alberta-based Research Projects, for all her efforts during Year 1 of the study. Tremendous gratitude is also extended to Ms Linda Haggett, Receptionist/Typist, for her assistance with transcription, data entry and formatting of the report.

Finally, the authors acknowledge the Alberta Law Foundation for its ongoing funding of the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family.

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Despite an overall decrease in crime rates, the issues of youth crime and youth violence are growing political and policy concerns in many countries. Juvenile justice officials and policy makers are working to develop more effective methods for dealing with youth crime, designing new alternatives to traditional juvenile justice systems, and finding more effective approaches for handling serious and persistent offenders. One such attempt was the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)* in Canada in 2003. Replacing the *Young Offenders Act*, the YCJA lowered the age of presumption of an adult sentence to 14 years of age from 16, and a pattern of repeated, serious violent offences was added to the list of offences that give rise to the presumption of an adult sentence.

There is some research that indicates that crime in a community is often committed by a relatively small number of youth, commonly referred to as persistent or serious habitual offenders (SHOs). In 1995, the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family (CRILF) conducted a study of youth victimization, crime and delinquency in Calgary (Smith, Bertrand, Arnold, & Hornick, 1995). This study compared the nature and scope of crimes committed by SHOs and non-SHOs in Calgary over a 12-month period using the Calgary Police Service's Police Information Management System (PIMS). Smith et al. (1995) found that even though SHOs represented only 3% of the total number of young offenders, they were involved in 14% of the incidents. Further, the onset of criminal behaviour was found to be earlier for SHOs than non-SHOs, and the developmental pattern of their criminal careers indicated a more pronounced escalation for SHOs than non-SHOs.<sup>1</sup> Similar findings were also reported in an international study of persistent young offenders in the United Kingdom (Graham & Bowling, 1995). Overall, about 3% of offenders accounted for approximately 25% of all self-reported offences.

According to a recent national study of the criminal careers of a birth cohort in Canada (Carrington, Matarazzo, & deSouza, 2005), 16% of alleged offenders were chronic offenders accounting for 58% of all alleged criminal incidents. Chronic offenders were defined as persons referred to court for five or more incidents.

A major problem in the study of persistent offenders is how to define them. A study in the United Kingdom in the mid-1990s used three different definitions of persistence (Hagell & Newburn, 1994). The first definition included the top 10% of young offenders in a one-year period. The second definition included youth who had committed 10 or more offences in a three-month period. The third definition included

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of the 1995 CRILF study, the Calgary Police Service used a point system to designate youth as SHOs. The most serious offences were assigned 7 points, and a youth was designed as a SHO when he or she reached 50 points. The Calgary Police Service now uses a multi-disciplinary case conferencing model to determine SHO designation.

youth who had committed three or more offences punishable by imprisonment, one of which must have been committed while the youth was under a supervision order. Interestingly, of the 193 young offenders in the sample, only three met the criteria for inclusion in all three definitions. Le Blanc (2000) suggests using a multi-dimensional definition of persistent offenders. This definition would include not only frequency of offending, but also the seriousness of offending and the use of violence.

While the definitions of persistent young offenders vary among jurisdictions, the pattern of a small number of youth accounting for a disproportionate amount of crime is consistent. Consequently, it is important for the justice system, as well as community agencies, to be aware of the characteristics of SHOs and the factors that may place other youth at risk of becoming SHOs. Much research has been conducted in the United States on predictors of youth violence. In a meta-analysis that reviewed 66 studies, Hawkins et al. (2000) identified five general categories of predictors: (1) individual medical, physical and psychological factors; (2) family factors; (3) school factors; (4) peer-related factors; and (5) community and neighbourhood factors. The ability to identify youth who may go on to become persistent offenders could afford the opportunity to intervene early and decrease chronic offending.

## **1.2 Purpose of the Project**

There is a dearth of information in Canada on all aspects of chronic/persistent young offenders, including how they are dealt with by the criminal justice system. More knowledge of this group is required in order to develop a strategy that can effectively deal with these youth and reduce their pattern of persistent reoffending. In order to meet this need, the Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family (CRILF) developed a three-year study of youth offending in Calgary with funding from the City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services (Year 1) and the Alberta Law Foundation.

## **1.3 Objectives of the Project**

The objectives of this study are to:

1. identify how the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* has affected the flow of cases through the youth justice system in Alberta and affected the workload for various components of the provincial youth justice system;
2. develop a model for predicting why some youth in Calgary become serious habitual offenders (SHOs), while others do not; and
3. build a knowledge base for the City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services, Calgary Police Service and other relevant provincial-based agencies for increasing their effectiveness and efficiency by conducting an environmental scan of current best practices in Canada related to:

- predictors (risk and protective factors) of offending by youth;
- use of decision making instruments and protocols across Canada; and
- programs targeted at chronic/persistent youth offenders across Canada.

The investigation of these objectives was planned over a three-year period and will result in a number of research reports. The activities for Year 1 of the study, which focussed primarily on Objective #2, are the focus of this report.

#### **1.4 Organization of the Report**

This report is organized into six chapters. Chapter 2.0 outlines the methodology used to examine the characteristics of youth crime in Calgary and the development of the offender profiles, as well as the ethical and security issues encountered in the project. Chapter 3.0 discusses the characteristics of youth crime in Calgary and compares the patterns of offending for SHOs and non-SHOs for 2006. Chapter 4.0 discusses the historical comparison of the offending patterns of all youth designated as SHOs in 2006 and a similar random sample of non-SHOs. Chapter 5.0 details the offender profiles developed from interviews and file reviews of four different groups of offending youth in Calgary. Finally, Chapter 6.0 summarizes the results of Year 1 of the study, and discusses the implications of these findings.



## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Research Design

As indicated in Section 1.3, the primary purpose of this report is to address the objective of developing a model for predicting why some youth become persistent offenders. Two main strategies were undertaken to accomplish this objective:

1. An aggregate comparison of the contemporary and historical offending patterns of youth in Calgary using crime data provided by the Calgary Police Service; and
2. The development of offender profiles based on interviews and probation file reviews of a diverse sample of offending youth in Calgary.

#### 2.1.1 Research Questions

The following research questions were addressed in Year 1 of the study:

1. What are the contemporary trends of youth crime in Calgary?
2. How do the criminal histories of Serious Habitual Offenders (SHOs) differ from those of non-SHOs?
3. What characteristics (i.e., demographic, familial, educational, community, interpersonal) and experiences (i.e., delinquency, gang involvement) differentiate youth with various levels of involvement with the law?

### 2.2 Characteristics of Youth Crime in Calgary

To gain a macro-level understanding of youth offending in Calgary and determine the overall differences between SHO and non-SHO youth, an examination of patterns of youth crime in Calgary was pursued. Specifically, an aggregate comparison of the contemporary and historical offending trends of SHO and non-SHO youth was undertaken.

#### 2.2.1 Data Source

Through a research agreement with the Calgary Police Service, youth crime data were provided in SPSS format from the Police Information Management System (PIMS) database. Two main data types were necessary to fulfill the objectives of this study. First, to examine the characteristics of youth crime in Calgary for 2006, charge data for youth age 12-17 for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2006 were obtained. The total number of cases in the dataset was 5,961, with each case representing one *chargeable incident*: a contact between one youth offender and police where there was sufficient evidence for an information to be laid. Given some youth may have multiple contacts with police within a year, one youth could appear in the dataset more than once if they were involved in more than one incident. Further, given multiple offenders

could be involved in one incident, the same incident could appear in the dataset more than once. Incidents where a youth was *suspected* but there was not sufficient evidence to charge were *not* included in the data. This method of data analysis and reporting is consistent with Statistics Canada's Incident-based UCR2 Survey (Statistics Canada 2006).

Second, to compare the historical trends of SHO and non-SHO youth, similar historical charge data were obtained for all youth designated as SHOs in 2006 (n=42), and a stratified random sample of non-SHOs (n=42) matched on year of birth and gender. In order to capture their entire youth incident history, charge data for the previous six years (January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2005) were obtained for these youth (n=84).

The original data files were supplied by the Calgary Police Service to the researchers with the first, middle and last name of each youth. In order to preserve confidentiality and anonymity, each youth was assigned a unique identification number and all names were removed from the working data file.

The data files contained demographic information (gender, age) and incident characteristics such as presence of a weapon, offence type, charge status (charged, not charged)<sup>2</sup> and time of the incident. Many of the variables in the original data file were in non-numeric format. For greater ease of analysis, new variables were created recoding non-numeric variables into numeric (nominal and ordinal format) form.

### 2.2.2 Data Analysis Strategy

Data analysis was performed using SPSS software. Examination of the 2006 Calgary youth crime data included bivariate, descriptive analysis of the characteristics of all incidents, including age, gender, offender type (SHO vs. non-SHO), presence of co-offender, offence type, charge status, weapon type, and day, time, and month of the incident. Analysis was further conducted by age and gender on a number of variables (i.e., charge status, offence type, weapon type). Finally, a comparison of crime characteristics amongst SHOs and non-SHOs was performed, both at the incident and individual level.

Historical data were analyzed in a similar fashion, however over a period of time – 2000 to 2006. Specific variables examined included offenders' age at the time of the incident, characteristics of the incident, the presence of weapons, and charge status.

### 2.2.3 Limitations

A few limitations are worthy of note. First, the data provided only reported crime in which the offender was a young person. Although these data were valuable in

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<sup>2</sup> The Calgary Police Service uses the terms "accused" and "offender not charged" to refer to youth involvement in crime. These terms are synonymous with "charged" and "not charged."

examining the aggregate trends among criminally charged youth in Calgary, the data did not account for unrecorded police contacts (i.e., informal warnings).

Second, given the historical analysis used a relatively small sample of non-SHOs (given they were matched to the 42 youth designated as SHOs in 2006), it is not representative of the entire population of non-SHOs. Therefore, it is difficult to generalize the findings to all non-SHO youth offenders in Calgary.

Finally, for the purposes of creating offender profiles, descriptive, bivariate analysis was employed. Therefore, conclusions regarding causality cannot be drawn from the data discussed in this report.

## **2.3 Youth Offender Profiles**

While the aggregate analysis provided a general picture of the contemporary and historical trends of youth offending in Calgary (ultimately comparing SHOs and non-SHOs), a more detailed understanding of the differences between youth with varying involvement with the law was necessary. In a research agreement with the Alberta Solicitor General, CRILF was granted permission to develop youth offender profiles using information from interviews with offending youth and reviews of their probation files. This strategy aimed to fulfill the goal of understanding the experiences and factors that might predict how some youth become more seriously involved with offending than others.

### **2.3.1 Participants**

For the purposes of comparing and contrasting youth who are seriously involved in crime and those who are not, four groups of youth with varying contact with the youth criminal justice system were the focus of this study. They included:

#### **1. Gateway Clients under Extrajudicial Measures**

Gateway is a pre-charge extrajudicial measures program under the *YCJA* that currently operates in all eight police districts in Calgary. Under this program, youth are diverted by the police from the traditional youth justice system to over 25 community agencies that have agreed to accept these youth. Youth are admitted to this program for offences ranging from theft under \$5,000, to mischief, to break and enter, to minor assault. Gateway is a partnership of City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Calgary Police Service.

#### **2. One-time Offenders**

This group includes youth having one substantive (i.e., *Criminal Code; Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*) offence or incident of which he/she has been found guilty (with no subsequent charges pending). *Incident* was defined as all charges pertaining to the same person and having the same date of offence.

Administration of justice incidents (i.e., breaches, failures to appear) were not counted as substantive incidents.

### 3. Chronic Offenders

This group included youth having five or more substantive (i.e., *Criminal Code*, *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*) offences or incidents of which he/she has been found guilty (not including SHOs). Again, *incident* was defined as all charges pertaining to the same person and having the same date of offence. Administration of justice incidents were not counted as substantive incidents.

### 4. Serious Habitual Offenders (SHOs)

The goal of the Calgary Police Service Serious Habitual Offender Program (SHOP) is to identify youth at risk of a career of crime and provide access to resources in order for them to be successful members of society. Referrals to SHOP are made by the Calgary Young Offender Centre (CYOC), the Calgary Youth Attendance Centre (CYAC), Calgary and Area Child and Family Services, City of Calgary Youth Probation, Calgary Police Service members, and the public and Catholic school boards. Each referring agency is required to complete an intake form providing information on historical risk factors (i.e., violent acts/offences, exposure to violence), social/contextual risk factors (i.e., peer delinquency, parental management, personal support, etc.), and individual risk factors (i.e., emotional difficulties, attitudes, risk taking, substance use, etc.). Referral information is received by the Calgary Police Service SHOP unit, who check the youth's criminal history. If appropriate for the program, the youth's information is forwarded to the Multidisciplinary Resource Team (MDRT), who review and assess the youth's records and determine whether he/she is appropriate for SHOP. Youth who are targeted by the program are profiled, with responses based on these profiles being developed to support the youth's successful reintegration. These youth are regularly monitored by the Calgary Police Service.

Participants for the study were obtained in a number of ways. Youth involved with Gateway were identified from program records with the help of the Gateway coordinator. Over the course of three mailouts, youth who had contact with Gateway from the advent of the program (May 2005) until May 2007 were sent a package by the program containing an introductory letter, an information sheet detailing the purpose of the project, and consent and contact information forms (see Appendix A). Those interested in participating in the study were asked to return the contact (containing phone number and best time to call) and information forms (completed by their parent/guardian) to CRILF in the postage-paid envelope provided.

One-time offenders, Chronic offenders, and SHOs were referred to CRILF by Youth Probation, a service delivered by the City of Calgary Community and Neighbourhood Services. In initial information meetings at each probation office, the project was explained to probation officers by the researchers, and the probation officers were asked to refer One-time, Chronic, and SHOP youth according to the above

criteria. Information posters were placed in probation offices, with the probation officers explaining the study to interested youth and performing an initial screen of possible participants. Probation officers referred the youth to researchers, who checked the youths' criminal backgrounds on the Justice Online Information Network (JOIN) to ensure they were an appropriate fit for the study. With the help of probation officers, an interview was scheduled with those youth who fit the study selection criteria. Often, interviews were scheduled either before or after their next scheduled probation appointment.

Originally, the study aimed to interview youth aged 16-18, matched on age and gender for each group. However, obtaining a sizable sample of study participants proved difficult, and this requirement was eventually abandoned in favour of a larger sample size. At the original deadline for data collection (December 31, 2006), the researchers considered the sample size too small to draw meaningful conclusions about the population. Therefore, participant referrals/interviews were extended to June 30, 2007. As of December 2006, researchers were also granted permission to interview youth at the Calgary Young Offender Centre, as a number of youth who fit the selection criteria could not be interviewed because they were incarcerated. Once per month, researchers obtained a resident list for the facility, determined which youth were eligible for the study (i.e., had a current supervision order under City of Calgary Youth Probation and fit the study criteria), and did as many interviews as possible in each one-day visit. This strategy greatly increased the sample size for the Chronic and SHO groups.

Informed consent was obtained from all youth participating in the study (see Appendix A: Information and Consent form). For youth aged 16 and over, consent forms were explained, completed, and signed in the presence of the researcher. For youth under age 16, an information sheet and consent form were sent home to be completed and signed by their parent or guardian. All youth accessed through the Gateway program were required to have their consent forms reviewed, signed, and returned to CRILF by their parent or guardian.

### 2.3.2 Data Sources

Three main data sources provided information for the offender profiles: (1) Life History Interviews; (2) Probation File Reviews; and (3) JOIN Reviews. These data sources are explained below.

#### Life History Interviews

Life history interviews were conducted with all study participants. The interview schedule (Appendix B) was developed by CRILF researchers, with questions covering seven main topic areas: basic facts (i.e., demographic, familial); community (i.e., home community, feeling of safety); school (i.e., school status, experience); social life (i.e., friends, activities, delinquency); offending history (i.e., contact with the criminal justice system); gangs (i.e., knowledge and experience of gangs in Calgary); and future (i.e., goals).

Two researchers were trained to conduct the interviews. To ensure consistency and inter-rater reliability, the interview procedure was standardized. The interview schedule was successfully pre-tested by both interviewers on a small sample of youth (n=3) obtained through the City of Calgary's Youth Employment Centre.

Interviews were conducted from July 2006 to June 2007. Interviews were conducted in two ways – either in person or by telephone. Interviews with participants obtained through probation were conducted in person at Calgary Youth Probation Offices or the Calgary Young Offender Centre. A private room was used to preserve confidentiality and ensure the youth would feel comfortable to speak freely. An interview protocol (Appendix C) was used to consistently explain the purpose of the study, discuss anonymity and confidentiality, and allow participants to raise any questions or concerns. Importantly, youth were assured that they were free to withdraw from the study at any point without jeopardizing their involvement with Calgary Youth Probation or the Calgary Young Offender Centre. Participants' responses were recorded by hand on a paper interview schedule, later reviewed and transcribed into electronic format. Each participant who completed the interview at a Youth Probation Office was given \$20 cash at the end of the interview. Youth interviewed at CYOC could not be given cash while detained; therefore, researchers left the payment with their probation officer, to be given to the youth once released.

Given that Gateway youth were not accessed through youth probation (and therefore not reporting to a specific location), telephone interviews were conducted with these participants. Youth consenting to participate by returning the consent and contact information forms were initially contacted by the researchers to arrange a convenient interview time. If the initial call was unanswered, at least two follow-ups were conducted. Interviews were preceded by the researcher going through the Gateway Interview Protocol (Appendix D), allowing the youth to raise any questions or concerns. Researchers requested that the youth be situated in a private area prior to beginning the interview. Again, interview responses were recorded by hand, later reviewed and transcribed into electronic format. At the conclusion of the interview, the researcher obtained the youth's mailing address, with the \$20 payment being mailed directly to the participant.

### Probation File Reviews

Probation file reviews were conducted for each youth interviewed for the study, with the exception of the Gateway sample (who were not under the jurisdiction of Calgary Youth Probation) and a small number of youth in other groups whose probation files simply could not be accessed. The file review was meant as a supplemental and validating instrument to the interview.

A probation file review form (Appendix E) was developed following a preliminary examination of probation files. The form included demographic, familial, social, and offending information. File reviews were conducted at Youth Probation Offices. Researchers examined each probation file and filled out the electronic review form with the necessary information.

## JOIN Review

While charge and sentencing information was originally planned to be obtained from the paper probation file, CRILF researchers were granted in-house access to JOIN in early 2007 through a research agreement with Alberta Justice. JOIN contains information on all individuals' court contacts (charges, sentences, etc.) in Alberta.

A review form (see Appendix F) was developed by CRILF researchers and approved by Alberta Justice to obtain information from JOIN. Details for each of the youths' substantive (i.e., *Criminal Code*, *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*) and administration of justice (i.e., breaches, failures to appear, etc.) incidents (all criminal activity pertaining to the same offence date) were taken, including offence date, sentencing date, charges, charge outcomes, presence of co-offenders, and sentences. However, charge information for Gateway youth (n=20) and youth who were charged and sentenced in another province (their files transferred to City of Calgary Youth Probation) (n=3) could not be obtained.

### 2.3.3 Data Analysis Strategy

A total of 123 interviews and file reviews were conducted with Gateway youth (n=20), One-time offenders (n=42), Chronic offenders (n=41), and SHOs (n=20). Interviews and file/JOIN reviews were then coded, with quantitative information being converted to SPSS format.

For the purposes of the offender profiles, analysis of the interview and file review data was conducted descriptively by offender type with the goal of establishing defining characteristics for each group of offenders. A number of social, individual, and historical factors were used to explore the differences among the four groups of offenders, covering eight main areas: demographic characteristics; family characteristics; educational experience; social life; community characteristics; self-reported delinquency; knowledge of gangs; and justice system involvement.

With regard to the JOIN data, analysis was also conducted descriptively, by offender type. However, given those youth involved with the Gateway program did not participate in court, there was no information on JOIN for Gateway youth. Therefore, analysis of the JOIN data is restricted to One-time, Chronic, and Serious Habitual offenders.

### 2.3.4 Limitations

A few limitations are worthy of note. First, sample sizes for each group differed quite substantially, potentially affecting comparability. Where the response was strong for One-time (n=42) and Chronic (n=41) offenders, the samples of Gateway (n=20) and SHO youth (n=20) were less than half the numbers planned. With regard to the Gateway sample, researchers found it logistically difficult to contact these youth. Although more consent forms were returned than the number of youth who were actually interviewed, efforts to contact youth to schedule interviews were sometimes met with no answer or no returned calls. In some cases, interviews were scheduled, but

the youth was not present in the home at the scheduled interview time. Although further efforts were made to reschedule the appointment with these individuals, the rate of success was low.

With regard to the SHO sample, the number of youth designated as SHOs in Calgary was limited (n=42 in 2006). Further, not every SHO youth was being supervised by City of Calgary Youth Probation at the time of the study. Every effort was made to pursue interviews with those SHO youth on probation, however only 20 consented to interviews. Nine SHOs refused to be interviewed, and others simply could not be found (i.e., were AWOL).

Other factors contributed to the limited sample size. Youth who reported to their probation officer at school could not be interviewed in that setting, and these youth often had difficulty travelling to an after-school interview appointment at an area Youth Probation Office. Others had appointments scheduled with the researchers, but did not show for them for a number of reasons: being AWOL, having work/school conflicts, or simply forgetting about the appointment.

Because of these limitations, certain biases may exist in the sample. It is possible that youth with more supervision and home stability were better able to make their appointments. Further, it was more often youth in the Chronic and SHO categories who failed to show for their appointments. Given a substantial proportion of those Chronic and SHO youth who were interviewed were accessed at CYOC, their being incarcerated affected the likelihood of being interviewed. Finally, in some cases, the \$20 payment appeared to be more motivating for low socioeconomic status youth than others. This may have resulted in a demographic bias in the sample.

The original plan of the study was to match the youth in each group by age and gender. However, the struggle to get an appropriate number of respondents resulted in this strategy being abandoned. Therefore, the comparability between groups was somewhat compromised.

A final limitation to the study concerns the Gateway sample. Given Gateway participants were accessed through the Gateway program, there were no files, nor JOIN information, pertaining to them. Therefore, background and offending history for these youth were not available.

## **2.4 Ethics and Security Issues**

Given the sensitive nature of the subjects of this study, a number of ethical and data security concerns needed to be addressed for each strategy employed. Generally, since the study involved the examination of the criminal and personal histories of youth under age 18, all CRILF researchers underwent security checks.

### **2.4.1 Characteristics of Youth Crime in Calgary**

In order to ensure the utmost care in the use and storage of the PIMS data, a security protocol for the data's secure handling was developed (see Appendix G). PIMS

data were received complete with identifying information (i.e., names, birthdates, etc.). To preserve anonymity, names were removed from the working data file and replaced with a unique identification number for each individual in the file. A master list was created in order to facilitate follow-up of cases and was locked securely in a cabinet when not in use. Data were analyzed and reported in aggregate form, with no individual cases being examined or discussed in research reports.

Data were received electronically from the Calgary Police Service. To ensure secure storage, the personal computer holding the working data file was password protected, and the original data CD was locked securely in a cabinet.

#### 2.4.2 Youth Offending Profiles

Protocols were also implemented to preserve the anonymity, confidentiality, and secure use of information for the 123 youth who consented to be interviewed. These protocols addressed both the interview and file review information, and CRILF's access to JOIN (see Appendix H and Appendix I).

With regard to the life history interviews, care was taken to ensure that the response forms were securely transported to CRILF offices, where they were locked in a cabinet for safe storage. Only project researchers had access to this storage location. The interviews were also transcribed into electronic format for better manageability. The electronic transcriptions were stored on researchers' personal computers, which were password protected. Backup of these transcriptions was stored on a memory stick, which was locked securely in a cabinet when not in use.

Paper file reviews were conducted at probation offices, using a laptop computer and electronic file review form. Only the information required by the file review form was gathered. Once the file review was complete, the electronic file was removed from the laptop computer using a memory stick, and was immediately transferred to the researchers' password protected personal computer. File reviews were permanently erased from the laptop computer following this transfer. Backup was maintained on the memory stick, which was securely locked in a cabinet when not in use.

JOIN information was accessed via terminals set up on the researchers' personal computers at CRILF's offices. Personal user names and passwords for JOIN were kept confidential, used only by the researchers granted access to JOIN. JOIN information was only taken for those youth who consented to participate in the study, and only as specified by the Youth Offending History form developed by CRILF and approved by Alberta Justice. Information was taken electronically, and stored on the researchers' password protected personal computers. Any paper copies were stored securely in a locked cabinet.

Once converted to data, all information gained from the interviews, file reviews, and JOIN reviews was subject to strict measures of anonymity and confidentiality. All names were removed from the dataset, with each case being assigned a unique identification number. A master list was created in order to track cases when necessary

and was stored in a securely locked cabinet when not in use. No identifying information was used in any CRILF research reports.

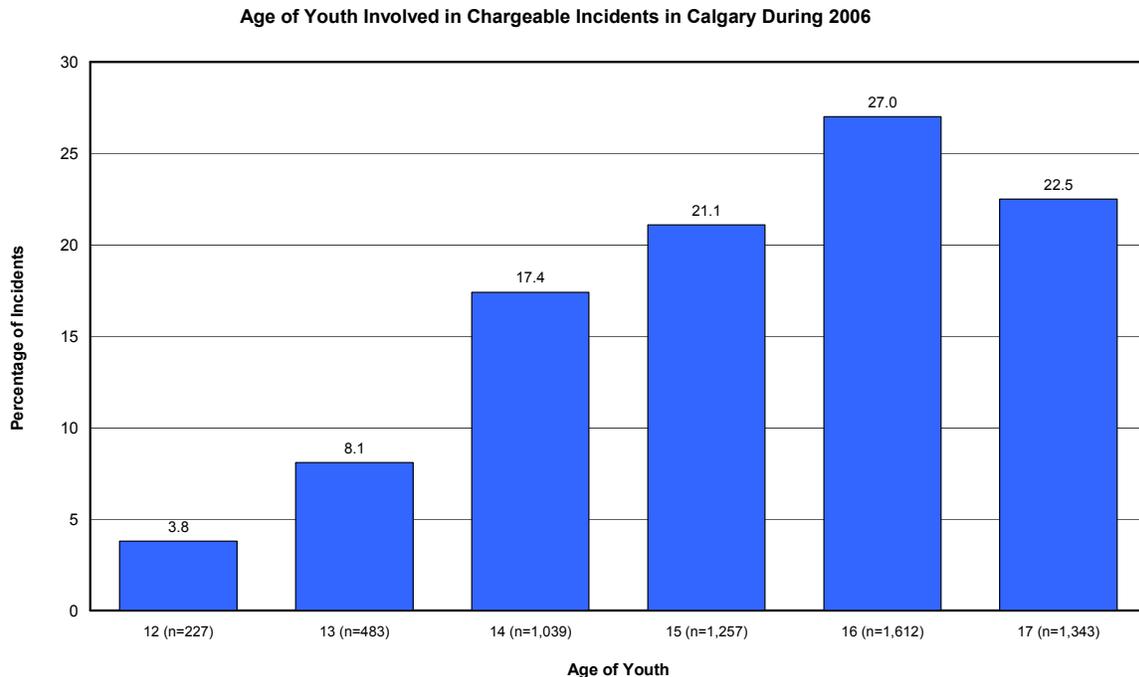
### 3.0 CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUTH CRIME IN CALGARY IN 2006

#### 3.1 Characteristics of Criminal Involvement Among Youth

This section of the report contains an analysis of the characteristics of all chargeable incidents (N=5,961) involving youth aged 12 through 17 in Calgary during the one-year period from January 1 – December 31, 2006. A chargeable incident was defined as a contact between one youth offender and police where there was sufficient evidence for an information to be laid. Youth who had multiple contacts with police in 2006 will appear in the dataset more than once. Similarly, if multiple offenders were involved in one incident, the same incident could appear in the dataset more than once. Table 3.1 presents characteristics of the chargeable incidents during the selected time period. Almost three-quarters (73%) of the chargeable incidents involved males, with 27% of incidents involving female youth.

As shown in Figure 3.1, the largest proportion of youth involved in chargeable incidents in 2006 were 16 years old (27%), followed closely by youth who were age 17 (22.5%) and age 15 (21.1%). As would be expected, fewer younger youth were involved in chargeable incidents in 2006; only 3.8% were 12 years old, and 8.1% were 13.

Figure 3.1



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
Total N = 5,961

**Table 3.1**  
**Characteristics of Chargeable Incidents Involving**  
**Youth in Calgary During 2006**

Characteristic	n	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	4,351	73.0
Female	1,610	27.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Offender Type</b>		
SHO	352	5.9
Non-SHO	5,609	94.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Co-offending</b>		
No	3,556	59.7
Yes	2,405	40.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Offence Type</b>		
Person	952	16.0
Property	3,144	52.8
Other <sup>1</sup>	1,850	31.1
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>5,946</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Status</b>		
Not Charged	2,297	38.5
Charged	3,664	61.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Weapon</b>		
None	5,660	95.0
Knife	109	1.8
Firearm	9	0.2
Other <sup>3</sup>	183	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.

<sup>1</sup> Examples of other offence type include: breaches; drugs; traffic; and other *Criminal Code*.

<sup>2</sup> 15 cases had missing data for this variable.

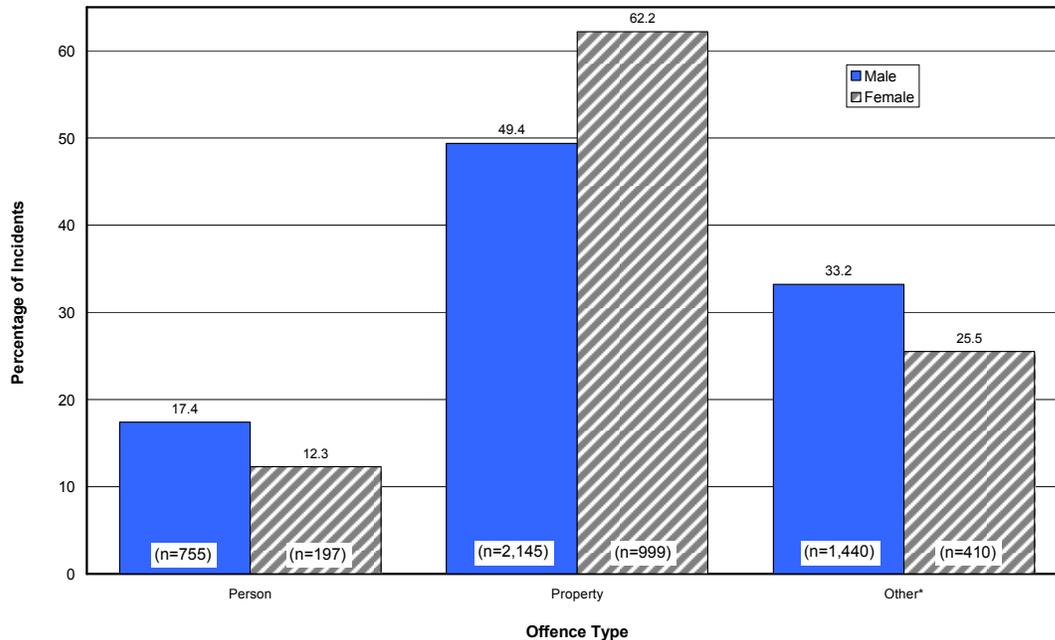
<sup>3</sup> Examples of other weapons include: baton; club; pepper spray; and vehicle.

A relatively small proportion of chargeable incidents involved youth who had been designated by the Calgary Police Service as Serious Habitual Offenders (SHOs) (5.9%), with the substantial majority of incidents involving non-SHO youth (94.1%). In the majority of cases, co-offenders were not involved in the incident (59.7%); co-offenders were present in 40.3% of incidents.

The majority of chargeable incidents (52.8%) involved property crimes (i.e., break and enter, theft, fraud, other property), while fewer incidents (16%) involved crimes against the person (i.e., homicide, sex offences, robbery, assault and other person) or other crimes such as breaches, drug offences, traffic offences, and other *Criminal Code* offences (31.1%). The data regarding offence type were further analyzed to see if

gender was related to the type of chargeable incident (see Figure 3.2). Females (62.2%) were more likely to be involved in property-related incidents than were males (49.4%). On the other hand, males (17.4%) were more likely to be involved in person-related incidents (e.g., assaults) than were females (12.3%). Males (33.2%) were also more likely to be involved in the “other” chargeable incidents than were females (25.5%).

**Figure 3.2**  
**Offence Type by Gender in Chargeable Incidents Involving Youth**  
**in Calgary During 2006**

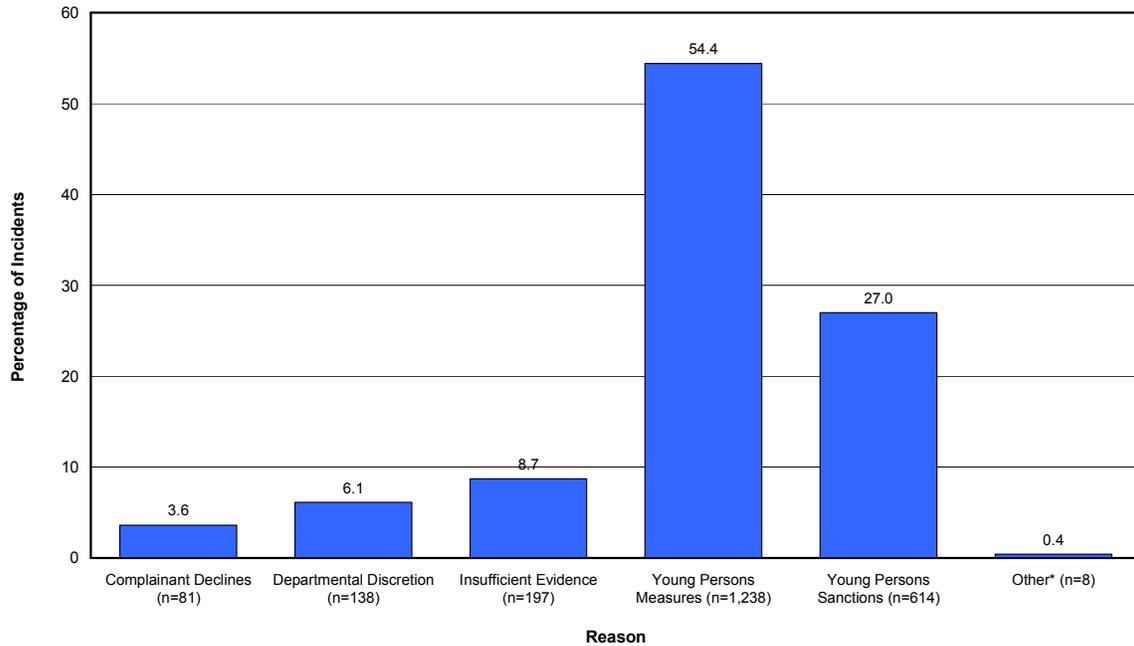


Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N = 5,961; Missing Cases for Offence Type: Male = 11; Female = 4.  
 \* Examples of other offence type include: other *Criminal Code*; Drugs; Traffic.

Most incidents where there was sufficient information to charge resulted in a charge being laid (61.5%); charges were not laid in 38.5% of incidents. Figure 3.3 presents data on why charges were not laid in the chargeable incidents that took place in 2006. The majority of the reasons were due to extrajudicial measures available under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. In over half of the cases in which no charges were laid, the reason was that Young Persons Measures were used (54.4%), and in over one quarter of the cases, the reason was that Young Persons Sanctions were used (27%). Insufficient evidence was given as the reason for charges not being laid in 8.7% of the incidents, departmental discretion was the reason in 6.1% of the incidents, and the complainant declined to lay charges in 3.6% of the incidents.

Figure 3.3

Reasons Why Charges Were Not Laid in Chargeable Incidents Involving Youth in Calgary During 2006

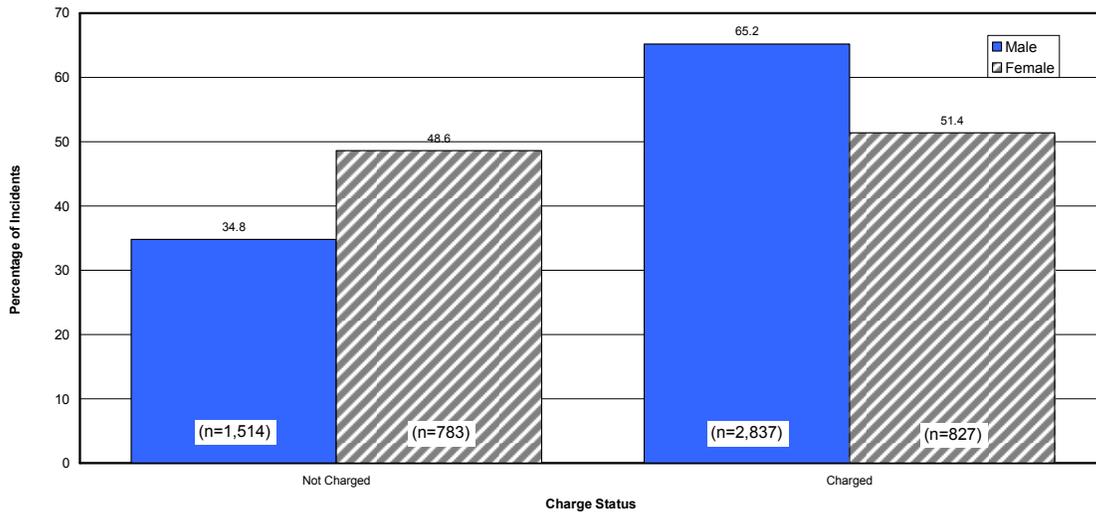


Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
Total N = 2,276

\* Examples of other reasons include: charged in other incidents; death of suspect.

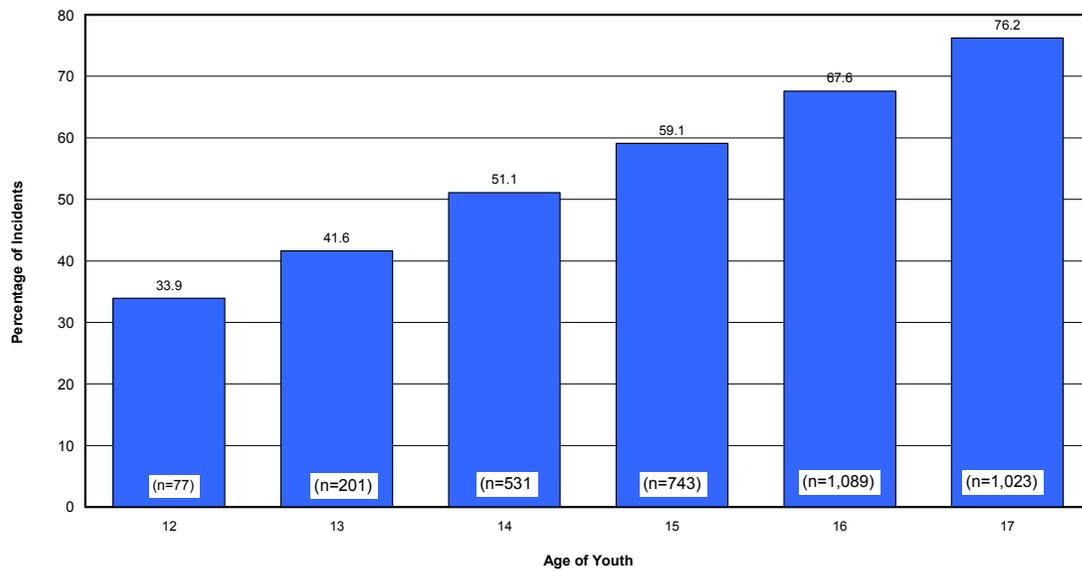
The data regarding charge status were further examined to see if there were gender and age differences in whether or not youth were being charged. According to Figure 3.4, taking account of age and gender differences, males were more likely to be charged than females. Almost two-thirds (65.2%) of the incidents involving males resulted in a charge, compared to just over one-half (51.4%) of the incidents involving females. Figure 3.5 indicates that, as would be expected, the likelihood of charges being laid increases with age. For example, 33.9% of chargeable incidents involving 12-year-olds resulted in a charge, while 76.2% of incidents involving 17-year-olds resulted in a charge.

**Figure 3.4**  
**Charge Status by Gender in Chargeable Incidents Involving Youth**  
**in Calgary During 2006**



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N = 5,961

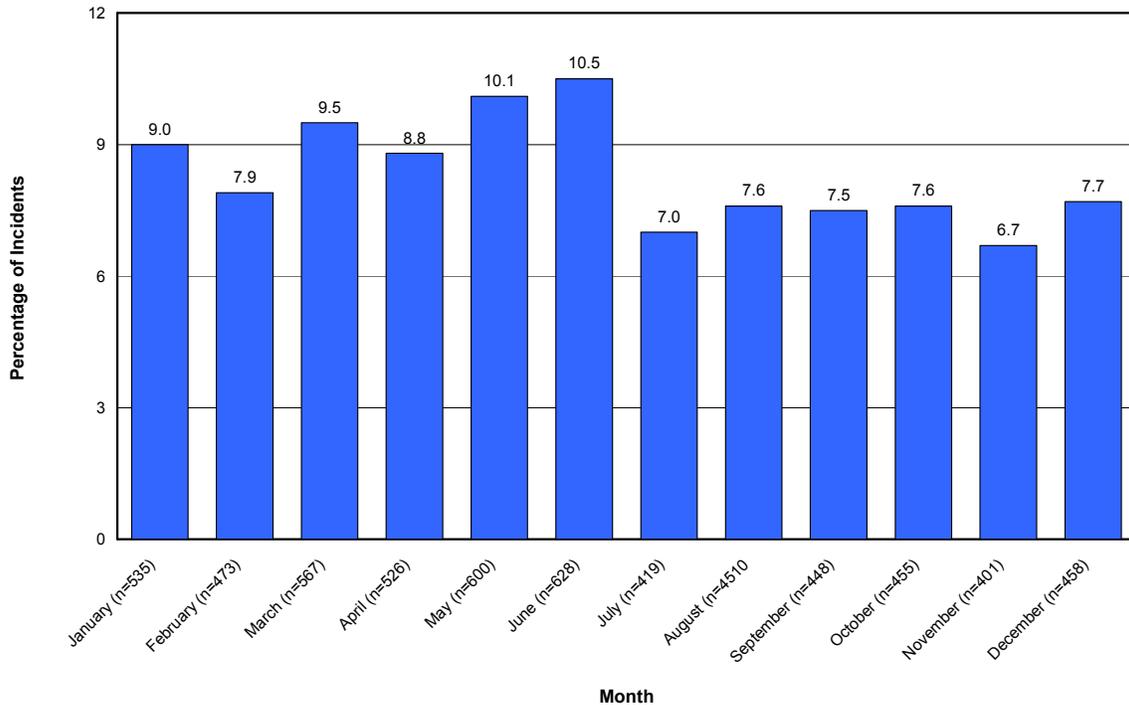
**Figure 3.5**  
**Proportion of Youth Charged by Age in Chargeable Incidents Involving Youth**  
**in Calgary During 2006**



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service  
 Total N = 5,961

There are some interesting findings regarding the timing of chargeable incidents. Figure 3.6 presents the month during which the incident took place. Overall, more incidents took place during the first half of the year than the second half. The months with the largest proportion of incidents were June (10.5%), May (10.1%), and March (9.5%). The months with the smallest proportion of incidents were November (6.7%), July (7%), and September (7.5%).

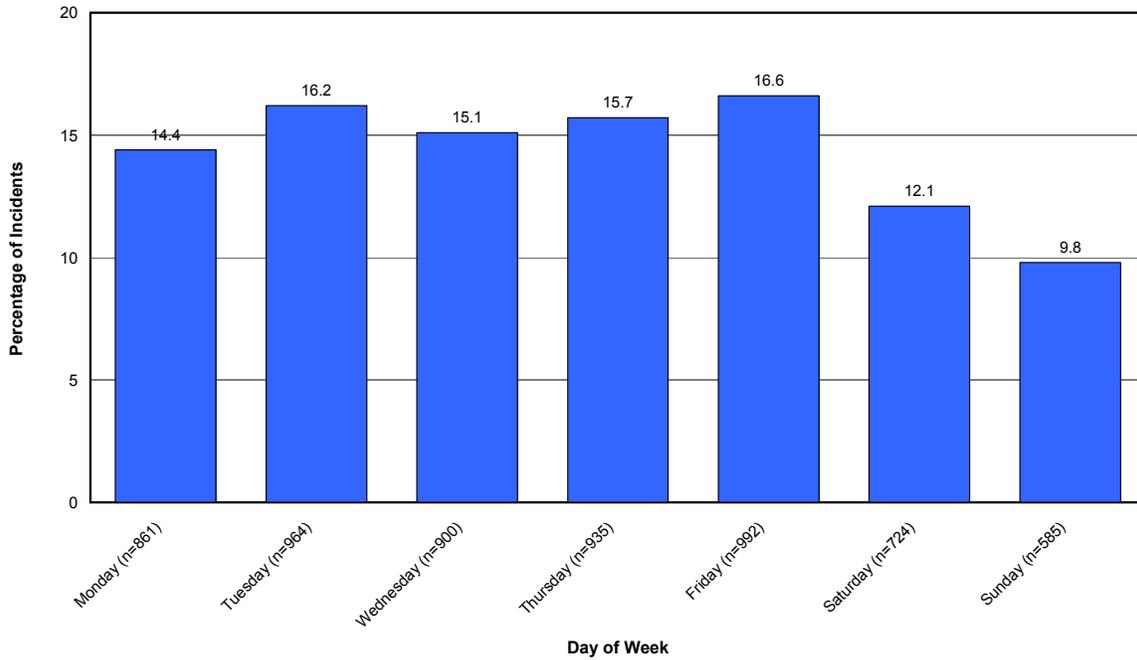
**Figure 3.6**  
**Month During Which Chargeable Incidents Involving Youth Took Place**  
**in Calgary During 2006**



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N = 5,961

When looking at the day of the week on which the chargeable incident took place, Figure 3.7 shows that more incidents took place on weekdays than weekends. Fridays had the largest proportion of chargeable incidents (16.6%), followed by Tuesdays (16.2%) and Thursdays (15.7%). The smallest proportion of incidents took place on Sundays (9.8%) and Saturdays (12.1%).

**Figure 3.7**  
**Day During Which Chargeable Incidents Involving Youth Took Place**  
**in Calgary During 2006**

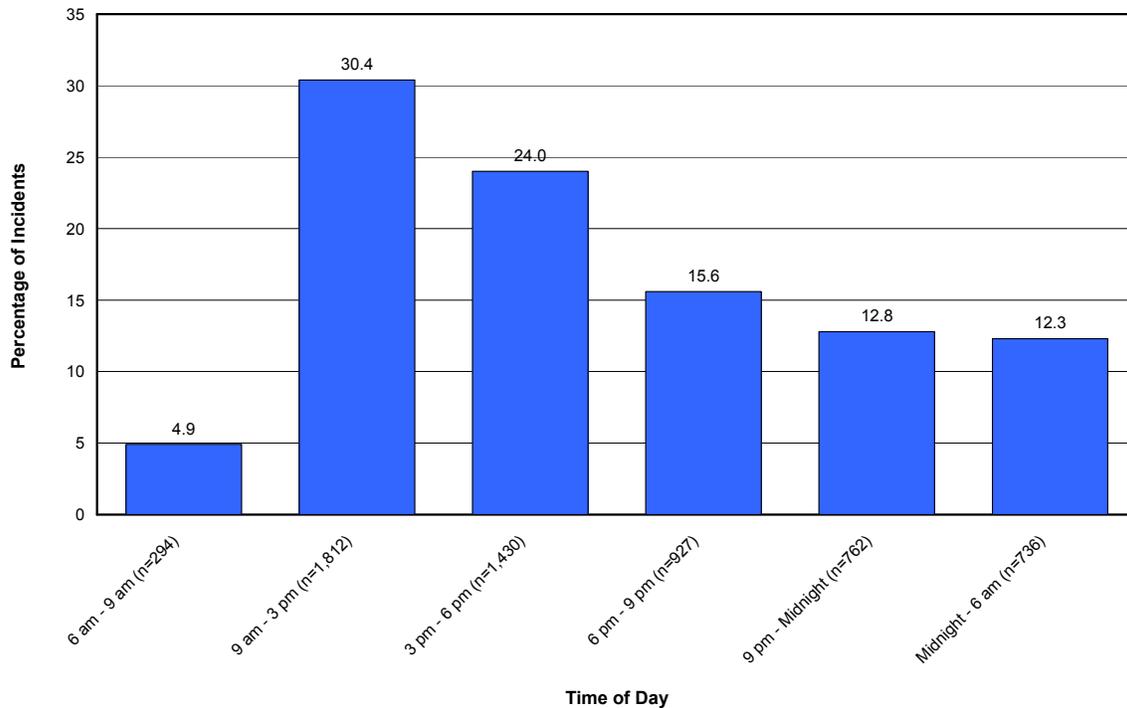


Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service  
 Total N = 5,961

Data were also available on the time of the day that the chargeable incident took place. The times were collapsed into categories that roughly corresponded to before school (6 a.m. to 9 a.m.), school day (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.), after school (3 p.m. to 6 p.m.), early evening (6 p.m. to 9 p.m.), late evening (9 p.m. to midnight), and early morning (midnight to 6 a.m.). Figure 3.8 shows that more incidents took place during the school day (30.4%) or after school (24%) than the other time periods. As would be expected, the time period with the smallest proportion of chargeable incidents was before school (4.9%).

A possible explanation for this pattern of findings is that youth are committing crimes when skipping school. This would account for the incidents taking place on school days and during regular school hours. It might also account for more incidents taking place in the second half of the school year, after students have established relationships and may be more likely to skip school. Additionally, some of these incidents may also be taking place at school.

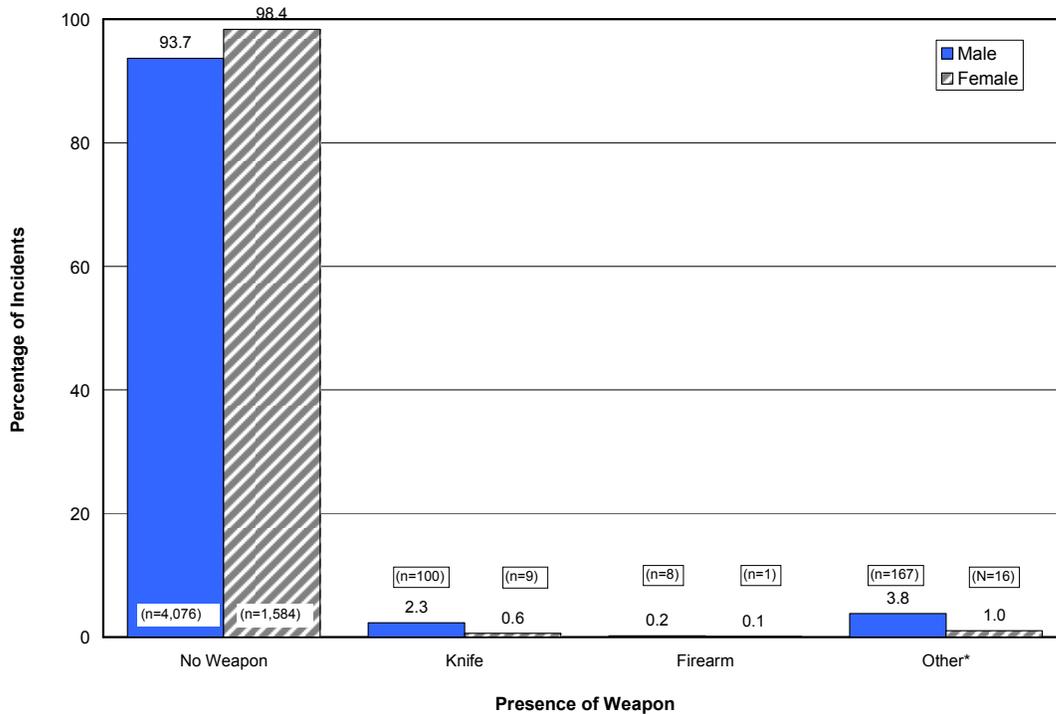
**Figure 3.8**  
**Time During Which Chargeable Incidents Involving Youth Took Place**  
**in Calgary During 2006**



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N = 5,961

Almost all incidents did not involve the use of a weapon (95%), while the presence of a knife (1.8%), firearm (0.2%), or other weapon (3.1%) was reported in relatively few incidents. Figure 3.9 presents an analysis of the data regarding the presence of a weapon, broken down by gender. Although the numbers are small, males were more likely to be involved in incidents where there was a knife present (2.3%) than were females (0.6%). Likewise, males were more likely to be involved in incidents where there was a firearm present (0.2%) than were females (0.1%). Finally, males (3.8%) were more likely to be involved in incidents where other weapons were present (e.g., baton, club, pepper spray, vehicle) than were females (1%).

**Figure 3.9**  
**Presence of Weapon by Gender in Chargeable Incidents Involving Youth**  
**in Calgary During 2006**



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N = 5,961

\* Examples of other weapons include: baton; club; pepper spray; vehicle.

### 3.2 SHO/Non-SHO Comparisons

Data were further analyzed by comparing incidents on whether or not a SHO was involved. Table 3.2 presents a comparison of the total number of SHOs and non-SHOs involved in chargeable incidents during the one-year period with the number of SHOs and non-SHOs involved in the total number of incidents. A total of 3,594 youth were involved in the 5,961 incidents, resulting in an average of 1.7 incidents per youth. SHOs were involved in an average of 8.4 incidents, while non-SHOs were involved in an average of 1.6 incidents. The data indicate that out of the total number of youth involved in chargeable incidents, only a small proportion (1.2%) were designated as SHOs; the substantial proportion of youth were non-SHOs (98.8%). Even though SHOs only represented a small proportion of the total number of youth involved in criminal activity, they were involved in a disproportionate number of incidents: SHOs were involved in 5.9% of incidents, while non-SHOs were involved in 94.1% of incidents.

**Table 3.2**  
**Total Number of Individual SHOs and Non-SHOs and**  
**Number of Incidents Involving SHOs and Non-SHOs, 2006**

	SHOs		Non-SHOs		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Individuals</b>	42	1.2	3,552	98.8	3,594	100.0
<b>Incidents</b>	352	5.9	5,609	94.1	5,961	100.0

Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.

Table 3.3 presents a more in-depth examination of incident characteristics during the one-year period, as well as presenting the proportion of incidents involving SHOs and non-SHOs. Male SHOs (n=39) were involved in an average of 7.7 incidents each, while female (n=3) SHOs were involved in an average of 17 incidents. This finding should be interpreted with caution, however, due to the small number of female SHOs, coupled with the fact that one female SHO was involved in a very high number of incidents (35). In contrast, male non-SHOs were involved in an average of 1.7 incidents, while female non-SHOs were involved in an average of 1.3 incidents.

The data also indicate that the majority of chargeable incidents involving both SHOs and non-SHOs were likely to result in charges being laid (54% for SHOs and 61.9% for non-SHOs). However, SHOs had a higher average number of incidents in which charges were laid (4.6) than did non-SHOs (1.7).

Both SHOs and non-SHOs were more likely to be involved in property-related incidents than in other types of criminal activity (59.9% for SHOs and 52.3% for non-SHOs); however, non-SHOs were more likely than SHOs to be involved in crimes against the person (16.4% compared to 9.1%). The average number of incidents involving crimes against the person per youth was similar for SHOs and non-SHOs (1.5 and 1.3, respectively). Conversely, SHOs were involved in a higher average number of property-related incidents (8.1) and incidents involving other crimes (3.4) than were non-SHOs (1.4 for property and 1.4 for other crimes).

Both SHOs and non-SHOs were unlikely to be involved in incidents where weapons were present: there were no weapons in 95.2% of incidents involving SHOs and 94.9% of incidents involving non-SHOs. SHOs were slightly more likely to be involved in incidents involving knives (2.6% compared to 1.8% for non-SHOs) while non-SHOs were slightly more likely to be involved in incidents where other weapons were present (3.1% compared to 2% for SHOs).

**Table 3.3**  
**Total Number of Incidents, Individuals, and Average Number of Incidents**  
**Per Individual by SHOs/Non-SHOs and Incident Characteristics, 2006**

	SHOs					Non-SHOs				
	Number of Incidents		Number of Individuals		Average Number of Incidents	Number of Incidents		Number of Individuals		Average Number of Incidents
	n	%	n	%		n	%	n	%	
<b>Gender</b>										
Male	301	85.5	39	92.9	7.7	4,050	72.2	2,363	66.5	1.7
Female	51	14.5	3	7.1	17.0	1,559	27.8	1,189	33.5	1.3
<b>Status</b>										
Not Charged	162	46.0	14	33.3	11.6	2,135	38.1	1,843	51.9	1.2
Charged	190	54.0	41	97.6	4.6	3,474	61.9	1,999	56.3	1.7
<b>Offence Type<sup>1</sup></b>										
Person	32	9.1	21	50.0	1.5	920	16.4	734	20.7	1.3
Property	211	59.9	26	61.9	8.1	2,933	52.3	2,160	60.8	1.4
Other <sup>2</sup>	109	31.0	32	76.2	3.4	1,741	31.0	1,288	36.3	1.4
<b>Weapon</b>										
None	335	95.2	40	95.2	8.4	5,325	94.9	3,430	96.6	1.6
Knife	9	2.6	5	11.9	1.8	100	1.8	90	2.5	1.1
Firearm	1	0.3	1	2.3	1.0	8	0.1	8	0.2	1.0
Other <sup>3</sup>	7	2.0	4	9.5	1.8	176	3.1	152	4.3	1.2
<b>Co-offending</b>										
No	191	54.3	42	100.0	4.5	3,445	61.4	2,288	64.4	1.5
Yes	161	45.7	8	19.0	20.1	2,164	38.6	1,663	46.8	1.3

Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.

<sup>1</sup> 15 cases were missing data for this variable.

<sup>2</sup> Examples of other offence type include: breaches; drugs; traffic; and other *Criminal Code*.

<sup>3</sup> Examples of other weapons include: baton; club; pepper spray; and vehicle.

The proportion of incidents involving SHOs and non-SHOs in which co-offenders were present were similar (45.7% for SHOs and 38.6% for non-SHOs). However, SHOs had a substantially higher average number of incidents in which co-offenders were involved (20.1) than did non-SHOs (1.3).

## 4.0 HISTORICAL COMPARISONS OF SHOS AND NON-SHOS IN CALGARY

### 4.1 Demographic Characteristics

As described in Chapter 2.0, a historical dataset was constructed comprised of the 42 SHOs contained in the PIMS database during the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006 and a stratified random sample of 42 non-SHOs from the same database. The non-SHOs were matched with the SHOs on gender and year of birth. The historical dataset contained all chargeable incidents involving the 84 youth during a seven-year period from 2000-2006. The 42 SHOs were involved in 1,402 incidents during this period (average of 33.4 incidents per youth) while the non-SHOs were involved in 196 incidents (average of 4.7 incidents per youth). Table 4.1 presents the demographic characteristics of the SHOs and non-SHOs in the historical dataset. The majority of individuals in both groups were male (92.9%); for this reason, separate analyses of males and females were not possible. Most youth were born in 1989 (33.3%) or 1988 (28.6%).

**Table 4.1**  
**Demographics of SHOs and a Matched Sample**  
**of Non-SHOs, 2000-2006**

Characteristic	SHOs		Non-SHOs	
	n	%	n	%
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	39	92.9	39	92.9
Female	3	7.1	3	7.1
Total	42	100.0	42	100.0
<b>Year of Birth</b>				
1988	12	28.6	12	28.6
1989	14	33.3	14	33.3
1990	9	21.4	9	21.4
1991	5	11.9	5	11.9
1992	2	4.8	2	4.8
Total	42	100.0	42	100.0

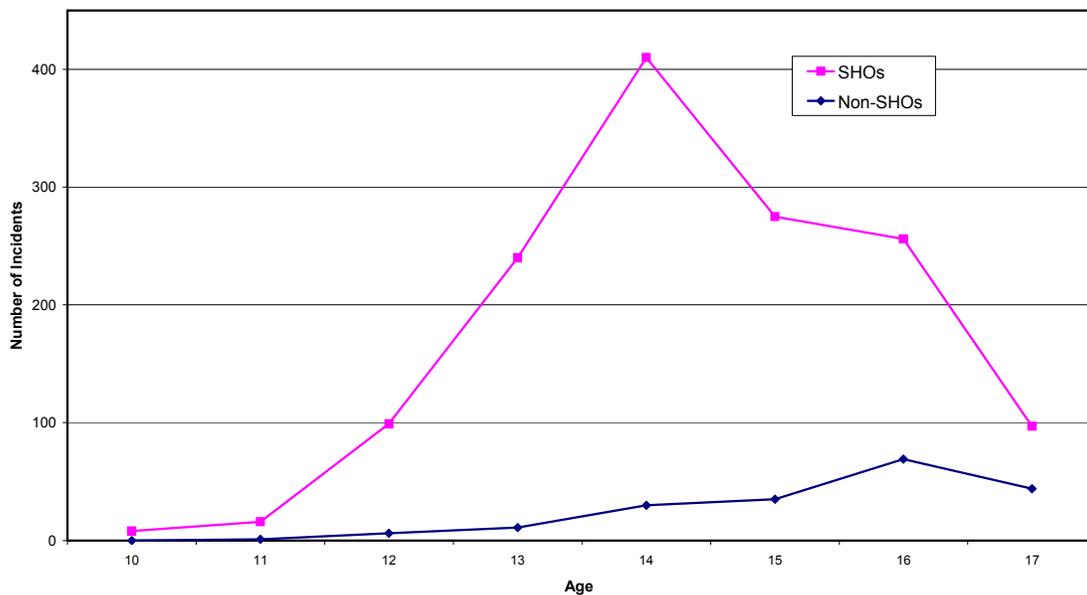
Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.

### 4.2 Characteristics of Chargeable Incidents

Figure 4.1 presents the number of all chargeable incidents involving SHOs and non-SHOs during the seven-year historical period by age of the youth. The data indicate that the SHOs had an earlier onset of criminal behaviour than non-SHOs and that this behavior escalated at a substantially higher rate for SHOs than for non-SHOs.

Eight chargeable incidents involved SHOs who were 10 years of age, while no non-SHOs in the matched sample were involved in criminal behaviour at that age. Sixteen chargeable incidents involved 11-year-old SHOs, while only one incident involved an 11-year-old non-SHO.<sup>3</sup> SHO criminal involvement increased steadily through age 14, at which point they were involved in 410 incidents. Criminal involvement among SHOs decreased during each year following age 14; however, the number of incidents involving SHOs was consistently higher for each age group than for non-SHOs. At age 17, SHOs were involved in 97 chargeable incidents, compared to 44 incidents for 17-year-old non-SHOs. The number of incidents involving non-SHOs increased for each age group from 11- to 16-years-old, and then decreased slightly for 17-year-old non-SHOs.

Figure 4.1  
Number of All Chargeable Incidents for SHOs and Non-SHOs by Age, 2000-2006



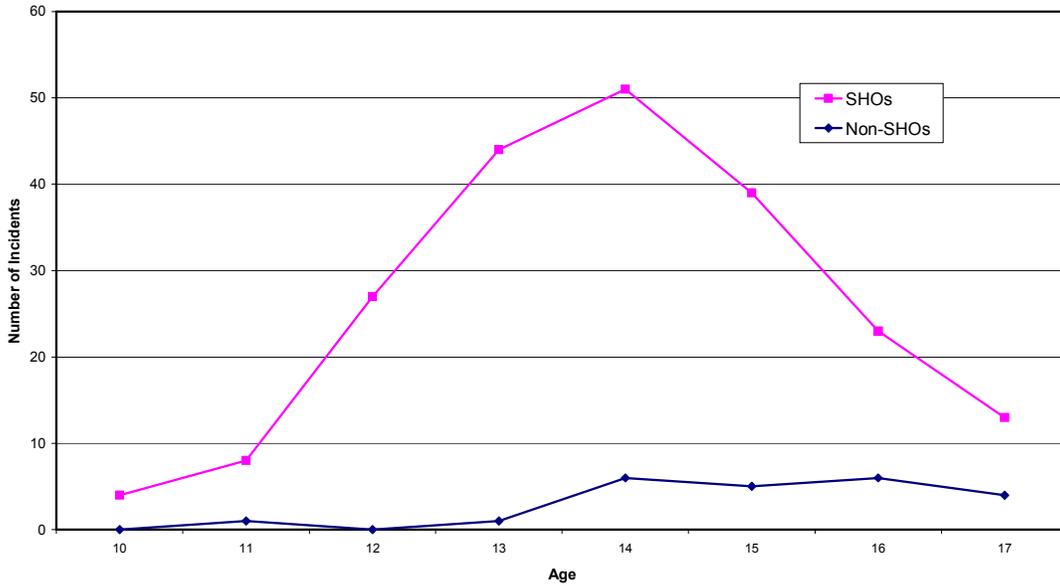
Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
Total N for SHOs = 42 (total sample); Total N for Non-SHOs = 42 (matched random sample).

Figures 4.2 through 4.4 present the development of criminal behaviour among SHOs and non-SHOs separately for person, property and other incidents as these youth age. With respect to crimes against the person, the pattern is quite similar to the overall incident data, and indicated that the onset of violent criminal behaviour was earlier for SHOs and escalated at a substantially higher rate than for non-SHOs. At age 14, SHOs were involved in 51 person incidents, compared to 6 person incidents for 14-year-old non-SHOs. As with the overall incident data, involvement in crimes against the person

<sup>3</sup> Police are not able to charge (or divert) young people under the age of 12. As a result, it is possible that they do not record all the contacts with youth under 12. Therefore, the data for these youth may underestimate the actual number of police contacts.

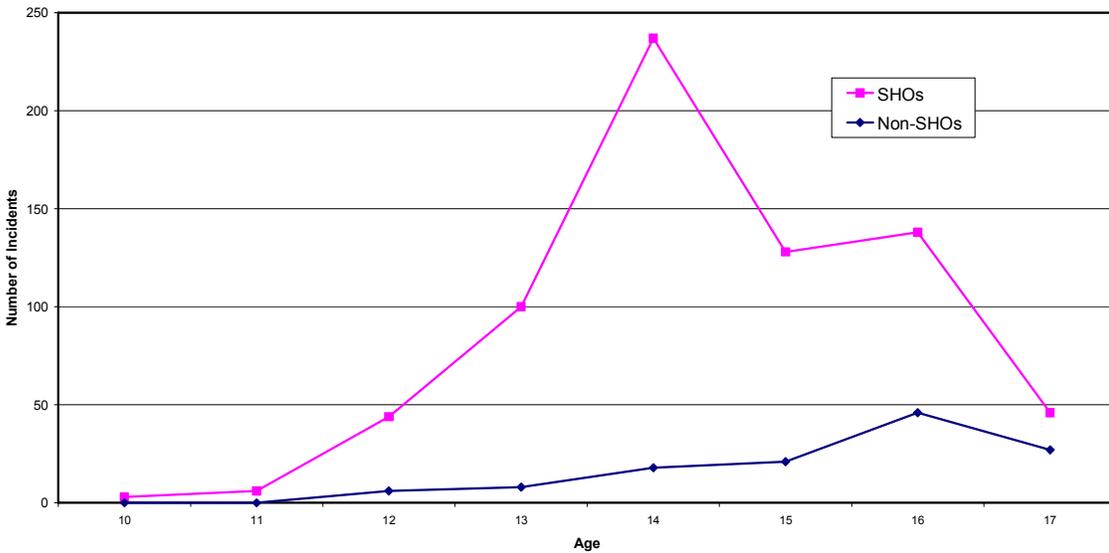
peaked at age 14 for SHOs and then decreased at subsequent ages. For non-SHOs, the level of involvement in crimes against the person remained relatively constant after age 14.

**Figure 4.2**  
**Number of Person Incidents for SHOs and Non-SHOs by Age, 2000-2006**



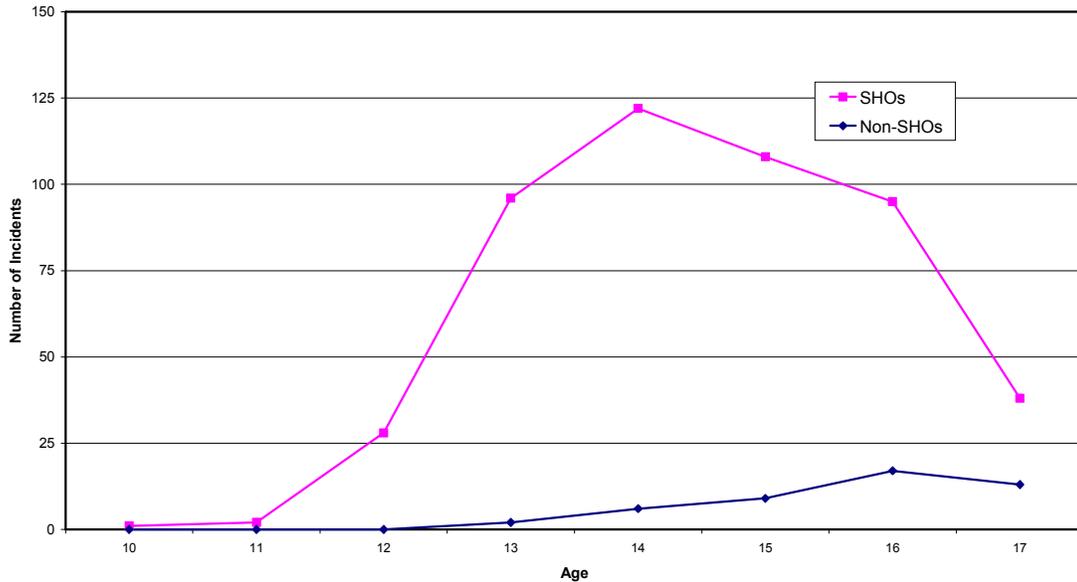
Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N for SHOs = 42 (total sample); Total N for Non-SHOs = 42 (matched random sample).

**Figure 4.3**  
**Number of Property Incidents for SHOs and Non-SHOs by Age, 2000-2006**



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N for SHOs = 42 (total sample); Total N for Non-SHOs = 42 (matched random sample).

Figure 4.4  
Number of Other Incidents for SHOs and Non-SHOs by Age, 2000-2006



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
Total N for SHOs = 42 (total sample); Total N for Non-SHOs = 42 (matched random sample).  
Examples of other incidents are: other *Criminal Code*; drugs, traffic.

With respect to property offences (Figure 4.3), the overall pattern was similar to person incidents, and indicated a higher level of involvement of SHOs at all age groups compared to non-SHOs. For both SHOs and non-SHOs, the prevalence of property-related incidents for all ages over 12 years was considerably higher than incidents involving crimes against the person. The number of property-related incidents involving SHOs peaked at age 14 (237 incidents), while the number of property-related incidents involving non-SHOs peaked at age 16 (46 incidents). Unlike the pattern with person-related incidents, the number of property-related incidents involving SHOs exhibited a slight increase from age 15 (128 incidents) to age 16 (138 incidents).

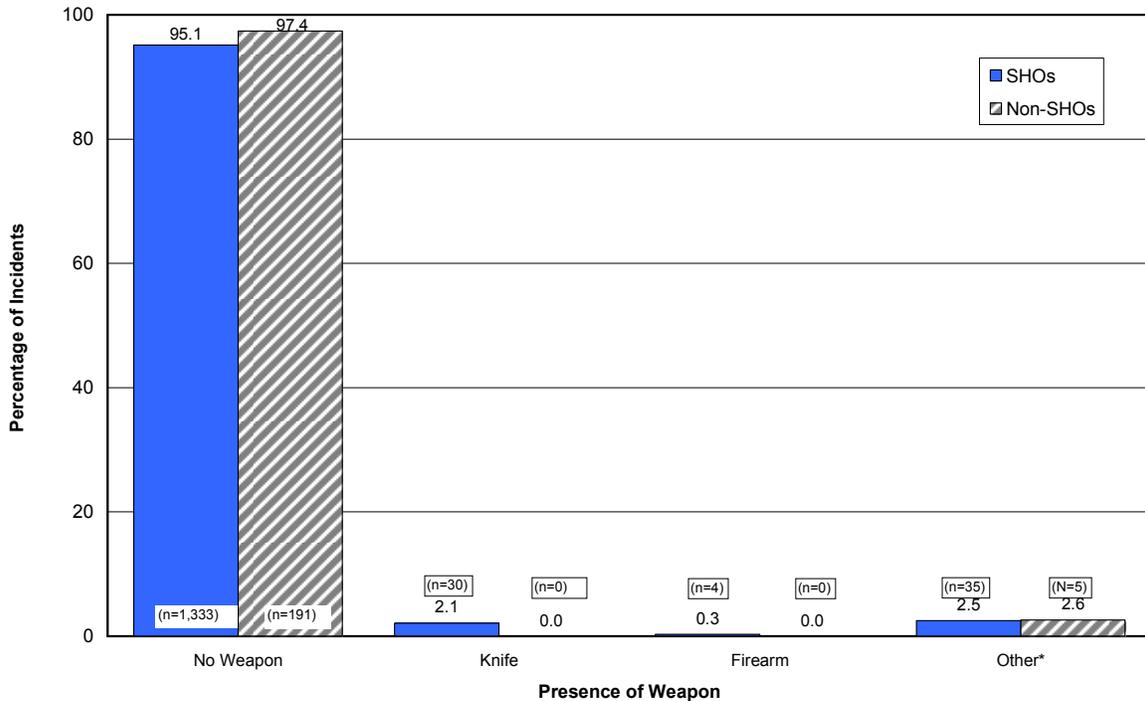
The incident data for crimes other than those involving person or property offences is presented in Figure 4.4. The overall pattern is quite similar to that observed for person and property crimes, and indicates that involvement in other incidents peaked at age 14 for SHOs (122 incidents) and then declined at subsequent ages. For non-SHOs, the number of other incidents peaked at age 16 (16 incidents) and then decreased slightly at age 17 (13 incidents).

### 4.3 Weapon Characteristics

Figure 4.5 presents the proportion of all chargeable incidents involving SHOs and non-SHOs in which a weapon was present. For both SHOs and non-SHOs, the substantial majority of incidents did not involve weapons, although non-SHOs were slightly more likely to be involved in incidents in which a weapon was not present (97.4%) than were SHOs (95.1%). Firearms were the weapons least likely to be

involved (0.3% of incidents involving SHOs and no incidents involving non-SHOs), whereas other weapons including clubs, pepper spray, and vehicles were most likely to be present (2.5% of incidents involving SHOs and 2.6% of incidents involving non-SHOs). While knives were present in 2.1% of incidents involving SHOs, they were not present in any incidents involving non-SHOs.

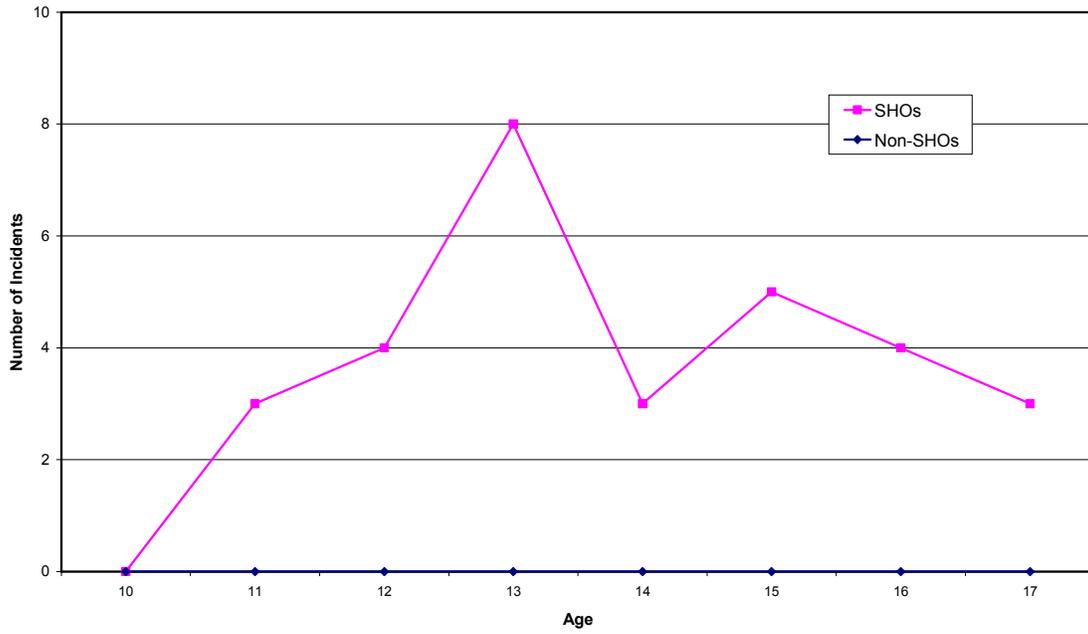
**Figure 4.5**  
**Presence of Weapon for all Chargeable Incidents for SHOs and Non-SHOs**  
**by Age, 2000-2006**



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N for SHOs = 42 (total sample); Total N for Non-SHOs = 42 (matched random sample).  
 \* Examples of other weapons include: baton; club; pepper spray; vehicle.

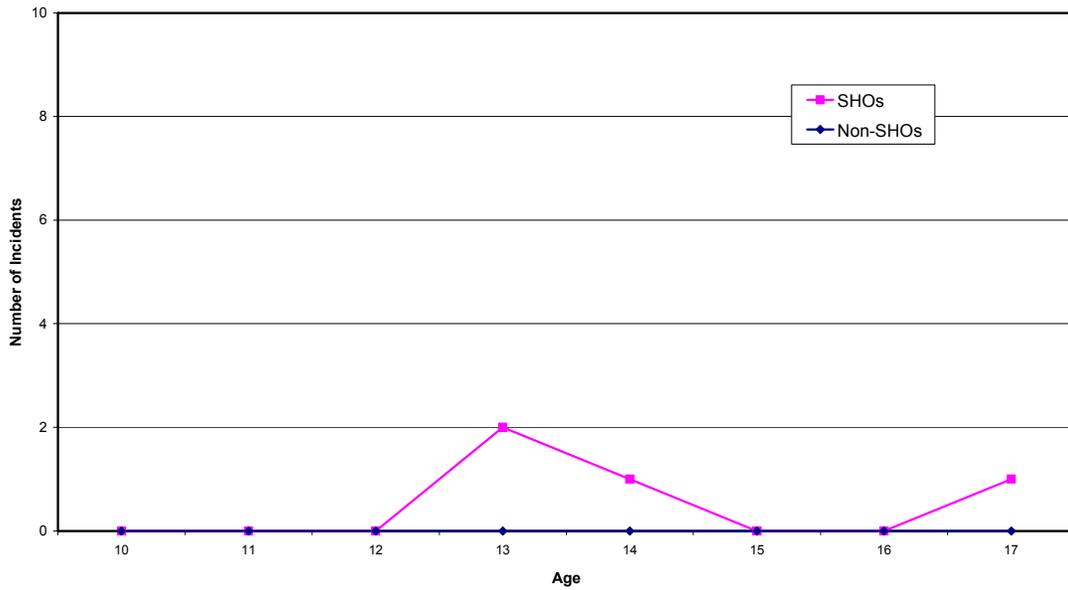
Figures 4.6 through 4.8 present the number of incidents involving each type of weapon for SHOs and non-SHOs at each age group. As the number of incidents involving weapons is very low, these data should be interpreted with caution. As indicated in Figure 4.6, SHOs were most likely to be involved in incidents in which knives were present at ages 13 and 15. As noted above, knives were not involved in any incidents involving non-SHOs.

**Figure 4.6**  
**Number of Incidents Involving Use of Knives for SHOs and Non-SHOs**  
**by Age, 2000-2006**



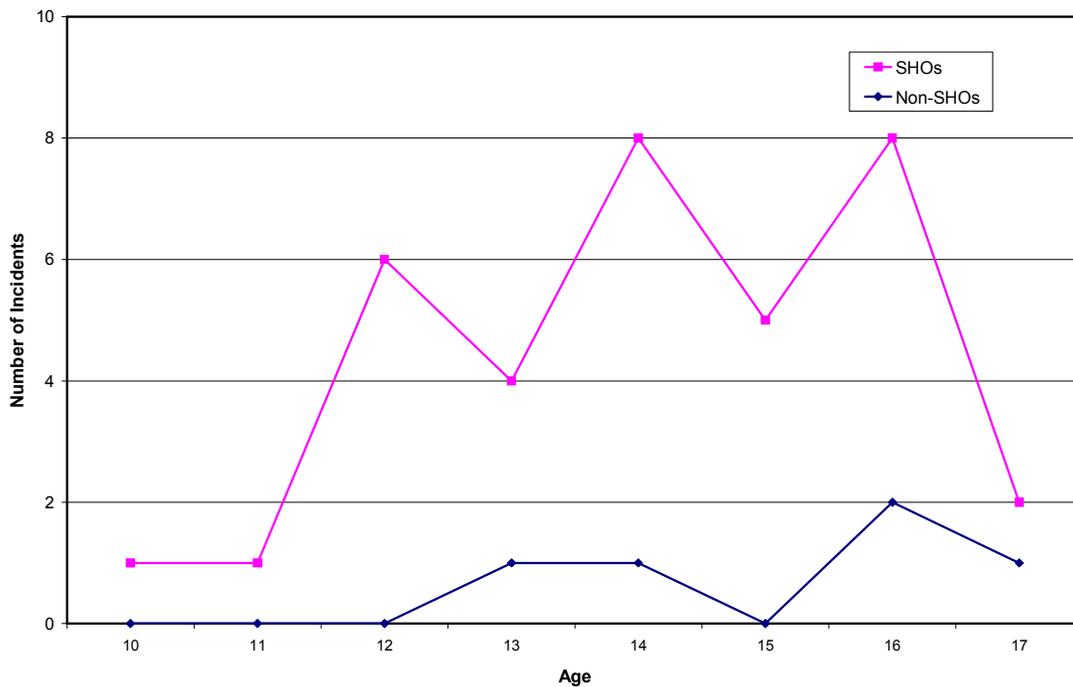
Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N for SHOs = 42 (total sample); Total N for Non-SHOs = 42 (matched random sample).

**Figure 4.7**  
**Number of Incidents Involving Use of Firearms for SHOs and Non-SHOs**  
**by Age, 2000-2006**



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N for SHOs = 42 (total sample); Total N for Non-SHOs = 42 (matched random sample).

**Figure 4.8**  
**Number of Incidents Involving Use of Other Weapons for SHOs and Non-SHOs**  
**by Age, 2000-2006**



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N for SHOs = 42 (total sample); Total N for Non-SHOs = 42 (matched random sample).  
 Examples of other weapons are: club/bat/baton; sword/machete; imitation; homemade; pellet/BB guns; pepper spray.

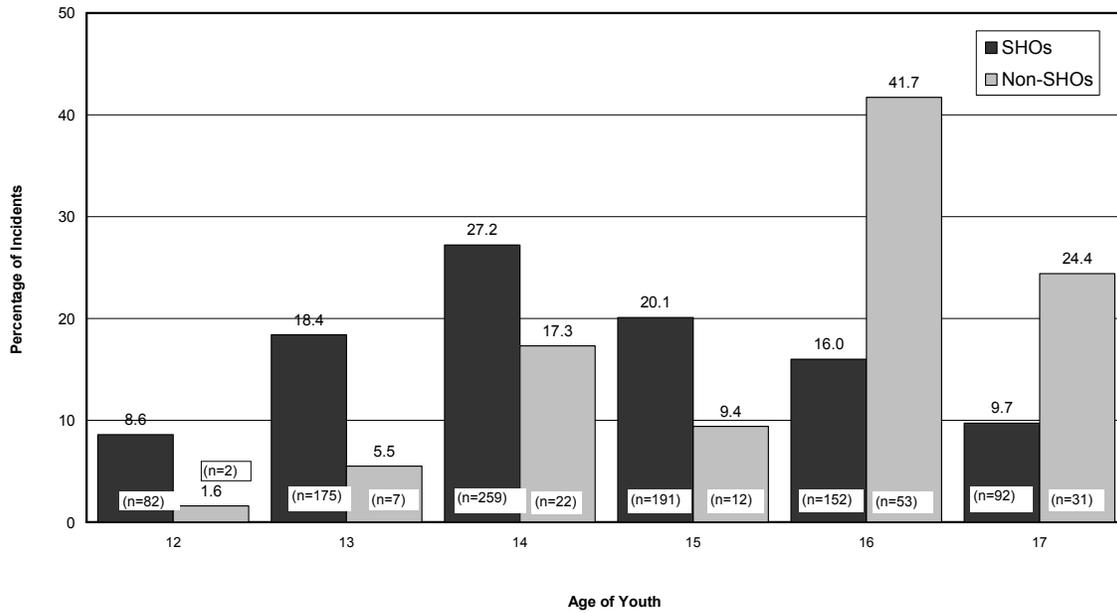
Figure 4.7 indicates that firearms were only present in two incidents involving 13-year-old SHOs and one incident each involving a 14-year-old and a 17-year-old SHO. There were no firearms present in any incidents involving non-SHOs.

Other weapons were most likely to be present in incidents involving SHOs at all age groups (Figure 4.8). The presence of other weapons peaked at ages 14 and 16 for SHOs and age 16 for non-SHOs.

#### 4.4 Charge Status

Figure 4.9 presents the proportion of SHOs and non-SHOs charged in chargeable incidents in which they were involved during the historical period by age. While the proportion charged within each age is related to the total number of youth represented in each age group, it is interesting to note the different pattern observed for the SHOs and non-SHOs. At the younger age groups from 12 through 15 years, SHOs were more likely to be charged than were the non-SHOs. However, for the older age groups (i.e., 16 and 17 years), the non-SHOs were considerably more likely to be charged than were the SHOs. It may be that the older SHOs, with their relatively extensive offending history, are more likely to receive interventions other than the traditional court system in an attempt to deal effectively with their offending behaviour.

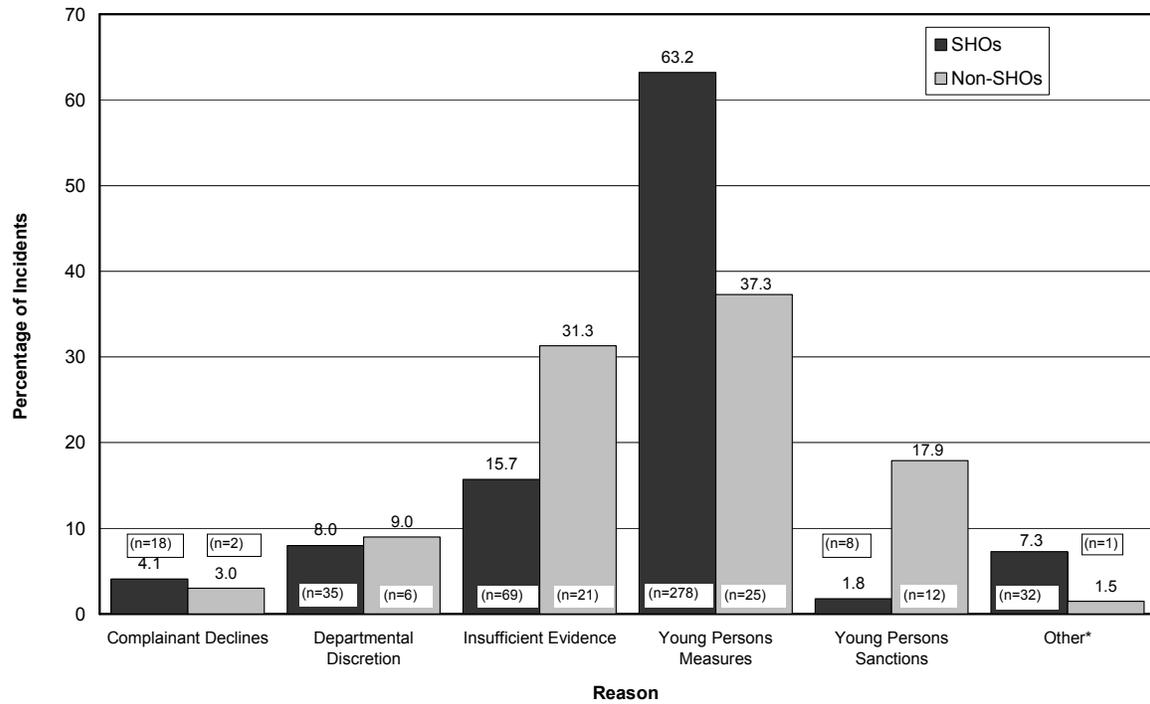
**Figure 4.9**  
**Proportion of Youth Charged by Age in Chargeable Incidents**  
**for SHOs and Non-SHOs, 2000-2006**



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N for SHOs = 42 (total sample); Total N for Non-SHOs = 42 (matched random sample).

When the reasons for charges not being laid are examined, it appears that this explanation may account, at least in part, for the findings with respect to charges being laid. As indicated in Figure 4.10, SHOs were considerably more likely than non-SHOs to receive young persons measures (63.2% compared to 37.3%, respectively), suggesting that SHOs may be more likely to be diverted from the traditional justice system under the provisions of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. Non-SHOs are more likely not to be charged for the reasons of departmental discretion, insufficient evidence, and young persons sanctions.

**Figure 4.10**  
**Reasons Why Charges Were Not Laid in Chargeable Incidents**  
**for SHOs and Non-SHOs, 2000-2006**



Source of data: Police Information Management System (PIMS), Calgary Police Service.  
 Total N for SHOs = 42 (total sample); Total N for Non-SHOs = 42 (matched random sample).  
 Missing cases for SHOs = 2; Missing cases for Non-SHOs = 10.  
 \* Examples of other reasons include: charged in other incidents; death of suspect.



## 5.0 PROFILES OF YOUTH OFFENDERS IN CALGARY

### 5.1 Offender Profiles

This chapter presents the findings of the interviews, file reviews, and analysis of Alberta Justice's JOIN database. Comparative data are presented for each of the four groups of offenders discussed in Chapter 2.0: Gateway clients (N=20); One-time offenders (n=42); Chronic offenders (n=41); and SHOs (n=20).

#### 5.1.1 Demographic Characteristics

Table 5.1 presents selected demographic characteristics of the four study groups. For three of the groups, the majority of youth were male and ranged from 83.3% of the One-time offenders to 100% of the SHOs. Gender was more evenly split in the Gateway group, which consisted of 45% males and 55% females.

With regard to their age at the time of the interview, the majority of youth in all groups except Gateway were 16 years of age or older. Mean ages ranged from 15.6 years for the Gateway clients to 17.0 for the SHOs. A larger proportion of Gateway clients were younger, with the highest proportion (25%) being 14 years of age.

The majority of youth in all groups except the SHOs identified themselves as Caucasian, and ranged from 71.4% of the One-time offenders to 85.4% of the Chronic offenders. In the SHO group, 50% were Caucasian, 30% were Native, and equal proportions (5%) were Métis, Asian, Middle-Eastern, and Hispanic. The substantial majority of youth in all groups were born in Canada, ranging from 90% of the Gateway clients and the SHOs to 97.5% of the Chronic offenders.

#### 5.1.2 Family and Personal Characteristics

##### Family Demographics

Family characteristics of youth in the four study groups are presented in Table 5.2. The majority of youth in the Gateway group reported that their parents were married at the time of the interview (55%), followed by divorced (25%), and never married (10%). Only one respondent each reported that their parents were separated or widowed. The majority of youth in the other three study groups reported that their parents were never married (21.4% of One-time offenders; 34.1% of Chronic offenders; 35% of SHOs) or divorced (31% of One-time offenders; 24.4% of Chronic offenders; 20% of SHOs).

**Table 5.1**  
**Demographic Characteristics, by Study Group**

Characteristic	Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	9	45.0	35	83.3	38	92.7	20	100.0
Female	11	55.0	7	16.7	3	7.3	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Age (at time of interviews)</b>								
13	1	5.0	1	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
14	5	25.0	6	14.3	1	2.4	0	0.0
15	4	20.0	9	21.4	6	14.8	2	10.0
16	4	20.0	6	14.3	12	29.3	4	20.0
17	4	20.0	10	23.8	11	26.8	8	40.0
18+	2	10.0	10	23.8	11	26.8	6	30.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Ethnicity</b>								
Caucasian	16	80.0	30	71.4	35	85.4	10	50.0
Native	0	0.0	4	9.5	1	2.4	6	30.0
Metis	0	0.0	1	2.4	2	4.9	1	5.0
Asian	2	10.0	3	7.1	0	0.0	1	5.0
Middle-Eastern	0	0.0	2	4.8	0	0.0	1	5.0
African	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	4.9	0	0.0
Mulatto	0	0.0	2	4.8	1	2.4	0	0.0
Hispanic	2	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Country of Birth</b>								
Canada	18	90.0	39	92.9	40	97.5	18	90.0
United States	0	0.0	1	2.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
Afghanistan	0	0.0	2	4.8	0	0.0	1	5.0
Phillipines	1	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Russia	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.0
Poland	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.4	0	0.0
South Africa	1	5.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

**Table 5.2**  
**Family Characteristics, by Study Group**

Characteristic	Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Parents' Marital Status</b>								
Married	11	55.0	14	33.3	7	17.1	5	25.0
Never married	2	10.0	9	21.4	14	34.1	7	35.0
Separated	1	5.0	4	9.5	5	12.2	1	5.0
Divorced	5	25.0	13	31.0	10	24.4	4	20.0
Widowed	1	5.0	2	4.8	4	9.8	3	15.0
Unknown	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.4	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Youth's Living Arrangements</b>								
Both parents	10	50.0	14	33.3	5	12.2	5	25.0
One parent/siblings	10	50.0	19	45.2	14	34.1	11	55.0
Extended family	0	0.0	3	7.1	1	2.4	0	0.0
Foster/group home	0	0.0	2	4.8	8	19.5	0	0.0
Independent/partner	0	0.0	4	9.5	3	7.3	0	0.0
Incarcerated	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	22.0	3	15.0
Other	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.4	1	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Mother Employed</b>								
Yes	19	95.0	31	75.6	26	65.0	11	55.0
No	1	5.0	9	22.0	10	25.0	8	40.0
Unknown	0	0.0	1	2.4	4	10.0	1	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Father Employed</b>								
Yes	16	88.9	30	75.0	20	54.1	14	87.5
No	2	11.1	4	10.0	6	16.2	1	6.3
Unknown	0	0.0	6	15.0	11	29.7	1	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

In terms of the youths' living arrangements at the time of the interview, equal proportions of the Gateway clients indicated that they lived with both parents or with one parent with or without siblings. The highest proportion of youth in the other three groups reported that they lived with one parent with or without siblings (45.2% of One-time offenders; 34.1% of Chronic offenders; 55% of SHOs). A total of 22% of the Chronic offenders and 15% of the SHOs were incarcerated at the time of the interview, while 19.5% of the Chronic offenders were living in a foster or group home.

In terms of parents' employment status, the majority of respondents in all groups stated that their mother was employed at the time of the interview, and ranged from 55% of the SHOs to 95% of the Gateway clients. Similarly, the majority of youth reported that their father was employed, ranging from 54.1% of the Chronic offenders to 88.9% of the Gateway clients.

## Personal Characteristics

Respondents were asked about their own employment status, and the findings are presented in Table 5.3. Approximately one-half of the respondents in each group indicated that they were currently employed, and ranged from 45% of the SHOs to 55% of the Gateway clients.

**Table 5.3**  
**Employment and Financial Characteristics, by Study Group**

	Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Currently Employed</b>								
Yes	11	55.0	19	45.2	20	48.8	9	45.0
No	9	45.0	23	54.8	21	51.2	11	55.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Number of Hours Worked per Week</b>								
<10	1	9.1	3	16.7	0	0.0	1	11.1
10-30	7	63.6	4	22.2	2	10.0	3	33.3
31-50	3	27.3	8	44.4	13	65.0	5	55.6
>50	0	0.0	2	11.1	4	20.0	0	0.0
Varies	0	0.0	1	5.6	1	5.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	11	100.0	18	100.0	20	100.0	9	100.0
<b>Average Dollars Spent Each Week on Food and Going Out</b>								
<\$25	9	45.0	12	30.8	5	12.2	2	10.5
\$25-50	3	15.0	8	20.5	9	22.0	2	10.5
\$50-100	3	15.0	7	17.9	4	9.8	3	15.8
>\$100	4	20.0	11	28.2	21	51.2	12	63.2
Varies	1	5.0	1	2.6	2	4.9	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	39	100.0	41	100.0	19	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

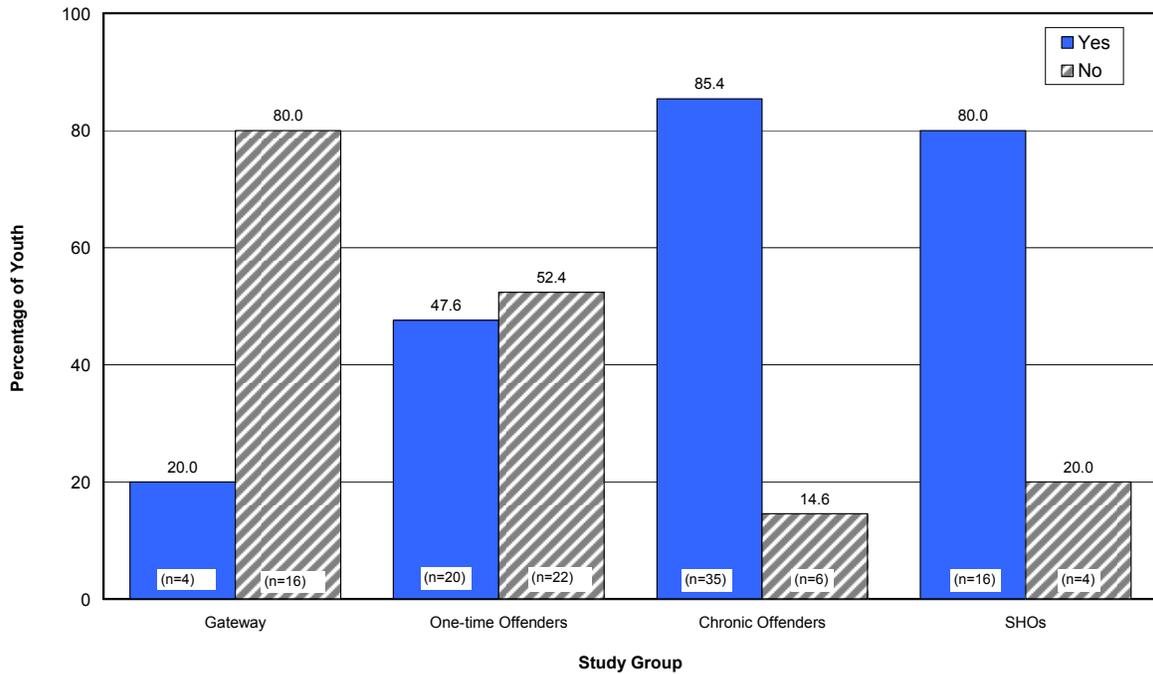
When youth who stated that they were employed were asked how many hours per week they work, the majority of Gateway clients reported that they work between 10 and 30 hours per week (63.6%). One-time offenders (44.4%), Chronic offenders (65%), and SHOs (55.6%) were most likely to state that they work 31 to 50 hours per week.

All respondents were asked to indicate how much money they spend per week, on average, on food and going out. Gateway clients and One-time offenders were most likely to report that they spend less than \$25 per week (45% and 30.8%, respectively). Chronic offenders and SHOs were most likely to state that they spend more than \$100 per week (51.2% and 63.2%, respectively).

Youth were asked if they had ever run away from home, and their responses are presented in Figure 5.1. A substantial majority of respondents in the Chronic offender

and SHO groups stated that they had run away from home (85.4% and 80%, respectively). Approximately one-half of the One-time offenders had run away from home (47.6%) and one-fifth of the Gateway clients had run away from home (20%).

**Figure 5.1**  
**Proportion of Youth Who Had Ever Run Away from Home, by Study Group**

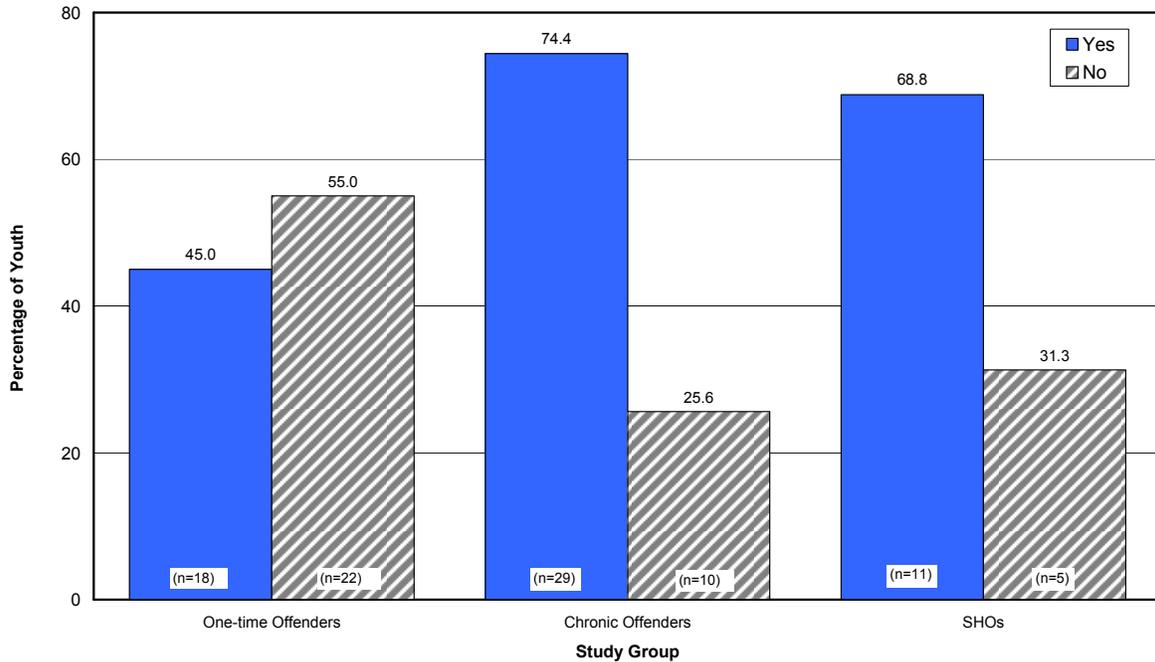


Source of data: Youth Offender Interview.

Total N for Gateway = 20; Total N for One-time Offenders = 42; Total N for Chronic Offenders = 41; Total N for SHOs = 20.

Figure 5.2 presents the proportion of youth in each study group who had a history of family violence. Since these data were collected from the youth probation files, no information was available for the Gateway clients. The files indicated that the majority of youth in both the Chronic offender group and the SHO group had a history of family violence (74.4% and 68.8%, respectively). In the One-time offender group, 45% had a history of family violence.

**Figure 5.2**  
**Proportion of Youth with a History of Family Violence, by Study Group<sup>1</sup>**



Source of data: Youth Probation File Review.  
 Total N for One-time Offenders = 42; Total N for Chronic Offenders = 41; Total N for SHOs = 20.  
<sup>1</sup> Gateway youth do not have probation files, therefore there are no data for this study group.

### Child Welfare Involvement

Table 5.4 presents the proportion of youth in each group who stated that they had various types of involvement with the child welfare system at some point in their lives. The majority of youth in the Chronic offender group (82.9%) and the SHO group (75%) reported that they had involvement with child welfare services. Only a relatively small portion of the respondents in the Gateway group (15%) and a minority in the One-time offender group (35.7%) had a history of involvement with child welfare services.

Youth in the Chronic offender and the SHO groups were most likely to report that they had lived in a foster home (36.6% and 50%, respectively). Similarly, Chronic offenders and SHOs were most likely to indicate that they had lived in a group home (70.7% and 65%, respectively). Gateway clients were least likely to report living in either of these settings.

**Table 5.4**  
**Involvement with Child Welfare System, by Study Group**

	Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Contact with Child Welfare Services</b>								
Yes	3	15.0	15	35.7	34	82.9	15	75.0
No	17	85.0	27	64.3	7	17.1	5	25.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Ever Been in Foster Care</b>								
Yes	2	10.0	7	16.7	15	36.6	10	50.0
No	18	90.0	35	83.3	26	63.4	10	50.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Ever Been in a Group Home</b>								
Yes	0	0.0	10	23.8	29	70.7	13	65.0
No	20	100.0	32	76.2	12	29.3	7	35.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

### Psychological Services

Table 5.5 presents the proportion of youth in each group who had received psychological services. Since these data were collected from the youth probation files, no information was available for the Gateway clients. A substantial proportion of the Chronic offenders (64.1%) and the SHOs (75%) had a psychological assessment conducted on them at some point. Slightly over one-quarter of the One-time offenders (27.5%) had received a psychological assessment. The majority of youth in all three groups had received counselling at some point, and ranged from 67.5% of the One-time offenders to 100% of the Chronic offenders.

**Table 5.5**  
**Respondents' Psychological Assessment/Counselling History, by Study Group**

	Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Ever Had Psychological Assessment</b>								
Yes	--	--	11	27.5	25	64.1	12	75.0
No	--	--	29	72.5	14	35.9	4	25.0
<b>Total</b>	--	--	40	100.0	39	100.0	16	100.0
<b>Ever Had Counselling</b>								
Yes	--	--	27	67.5	39	100.0	14	87.5
No	--	--	13	32.5	0	0.0	2	12.5
<b>Total</b>	--	--	40	100.0	39	100.0	16	100.0

Source of data: Youth Probation File Review.

### 5.1.3 Educational Experience

#### School Performance

Respondents were asked several questions regarding their experiences at school, and Table 5.6 presents these data. The majority of youth in the Gateway (100%), One-time offender (66.7%), and Chronic offender (68.3%) groups stated that they were currently attending school at the time of the interview. Slightly fewer than one-half of the SHO youth (45%) were attending school. It should be noted that findings may somewhat over-estimate school attendance for Chronic offenders and SHOs given those who were interviewed while incarcerated were required to attend school.

Youth who were currently attending school were asked how much schooling they expected to complete. The majority of the Gateway clients stated that they expected to complete college or university (68.4%) as did the majority of One-time offenders (51.8%). In contrast, the majority of the Chronic offenders (57.2%) and the SHOs (55.5%) stated that they either didn't expect to finish high school, or that completing high school was the highest level of education they expected to attain.

When youth who were currently attending school were asked if they skip classes, at least one-half of the respondents in each group stated that they do. Proportions ranged from 50% of youth in the Gateway group to 77.8% in both the Chronic offender and SHO groups.

Youth who were currently attending school were also asked if they had ever been suspended. Rates of suspension were quite high for youth in the One-time offender, Chronic offender, and SHO groups, and ranged from 82.1% to 88.9%. Gateway clients were considerably less likely to report that they had been suspended (40%).

When asked if they had ever considered dropping out of school, over one-half of youth who were currently attending school in the One-time offender (57.1%), Chronic offender (67.9%), and SHO (77.8%) groups indicated that they had. Less than one-third (30%) of the Gateway clients had considered dropping out of school.

**Table 5.6**  
**School Characteristics, by Study Group**

	Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Currently Attending School</b>								
Yes	20	100.0	28	66.7	28	68.3	9	45.0
No	0	0.0	14	33.3	13	31.7	11	55.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Schooling Expected to Complete</b>								
Don't expect to finish high school	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.6	2	22.2
High school	0	0.0	12	44.4	15	53.6	3	33.3
Post secondary, undecided	3	15.8	0	0.0	1	3.6	1	11.1
Technical/trade school	3	15.8	1	3.7	2	7.1	1	11.1
College	5	26.3	4	14.8	5	17.9	1	11.1
University	8	42.1	10	37.0	4	14.3	1	11.1
<b>Total</b>	19	100.0	27	100.0	28	100.0	9	100.0
<b>Skip Classes</b>								
Yes	10	50.0	16	59.3	21	77.8	7	77.8
No	10	50.0	11	40.7	6	22.2	2	22.2
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	27	100.0	27	100.0	9	100.0
<b>Been Suspended</b>								
Yes	8	40.0	23	82.1	23	82.1	8	88.9
No	12	60.0	5	17.9	5	17.9	1	11.1
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	28	100.0	28	100.0	9	100.0
<b>Considered Dropping Out</b>								
Yes	6	30.0	16	57.1	19	67.9	7	77.8
No	14	70.0	12	42.9	9	32.1	2	22.2
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	28	100.0	28	100.0	9	100.0
<b>Ever Been Bullied at School</b>								
Yes	9	45.0	24	57.1	16	39.0	6	30.0
No	11	55.0	18	42.9	25	61.0	14	70.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Ever Been in Fights at School</b>								
Yes	11	57.9	34	81.0	37	90.2	20	100.0
No	8	42.1	8	19.0	4	9.8	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	19	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Ever Taken a Weapon to School</b>								
Yes	1	5.0	15	35.7	20	48.8	15	75.0
No	19	95.0	27	64.3	21	51.2	5	25.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Ever Used a Weapon at School</b>								
Yes	0	0.0	3	21.4	4	20.0	3	23.1
No	1	100.0	11	78.6	16	80.0	10	76.9
<b>Total</b>	1	100.0	14	100.0	20	100.0	13	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

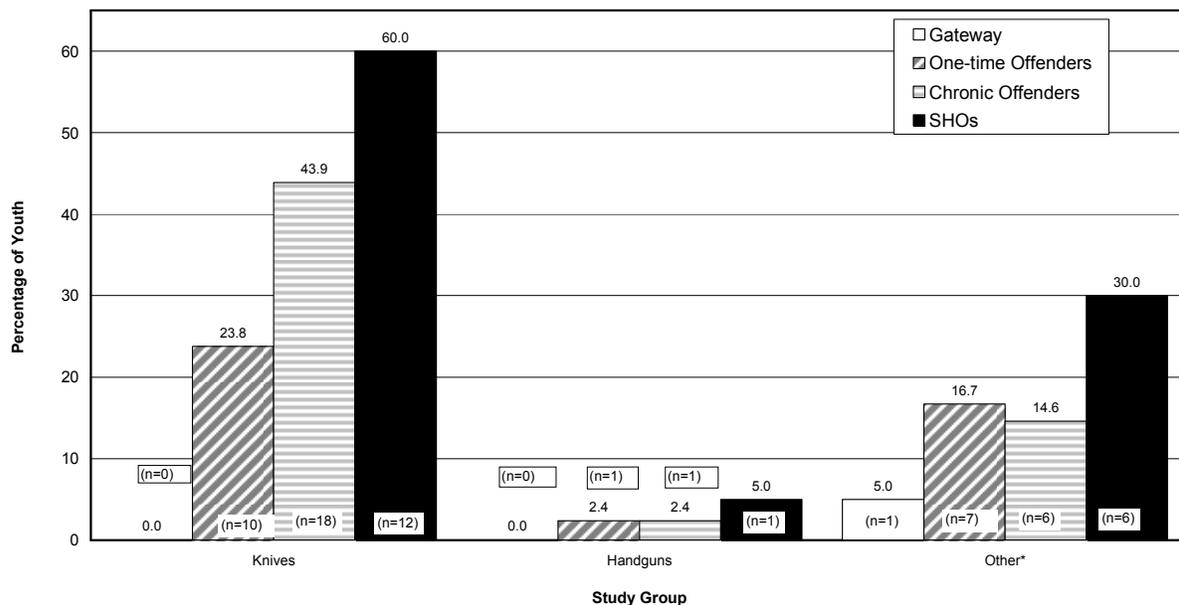
## School Experiences

All respondents were asked if they had ever been bullied at school. One-time offenders were most likely to report that they had been bullied (57.1%) followed by the Gateway clients (45%). Chronic offenders (39%) and SHOs (30%) were less likely to state that they had been bullied.

Over one-half of the youth in each group indicated that they had been in fights at school. The proportion of youth who said that they had been in fights ranged from 57.9% of Gateway clients to 100% of SHOs.

When asked if they had ever taken a weapon to school, responses differed substantially for the different study groups. Only 5% of Gateway clients reported that they had taken a weapon to school, compared to 35.7% of One-time offenders, 48.8% of Chronic offenders, and 75% of SHOs. As indicated in Figure 5.3, the type of weapon most likely to be taken to school was a knife, followed by other types of weapons such as a club, imitation, or homemade weapon.

Figure 5.3  
Types of Weapons Taken to School, by Study Group



Source of data: Youth Offender Interview.

Total N for Gateway = 20; Total N for One-time Offenders = 42; Total N for Chronic Offenders = 41; Total N for SHOs = 20.

\* Other weapons include: club/bat/baton; sword/machete; imitation; homemade; pellet/BB guns; letter openers.

Substantially lower proportions of youth in each group responded affirmatively when asked if they had ever used a weapon at school. Of the youth who had taken a weapon to school, no Gateway clients had ever used the weapon. Less than one-quarter of One-time offenders, Chronic offenders and SHOs reported that they had used a weapon at school.

#### 5.1.4 Social Life

##### Friendships

Respondents were asked about their friendships, and the findings are presented in Table 5.7. When asked where they met most of their friends, the most common response provided by Gateway clients was at school (90%), followed by playing sports (25%) and through other friends (20%). One-time offenders were also most likely to indicate that they had met most of their friends at school (78.6%), followed by in their neighbourhood (14.3%). Chronic offenders reported meeting most of their friends at school (61%), on the street (19.5%), and through other means such as at a train or bus stop or at the mall (17.1%). While the most common place that SHOs reported meeting their friends was also at school (45%), almost one-third (30%) indicated that they had met most of their friends in custody.

When asked about the age of their closest friends, few respondents in any of the four study groups indicated that their friends were mostly younger than themselves. The most common response for the Gateway clients (75%), the One-time offenders (53.7%), and the Chronic offenders (60%) was that their friends were the same age as the respondent. The most common response provided by the SHOs was that their friends were mostly older (45%), followed by the same age (40%).

The majority of Gateway clients (85%) and the One-time offenders (52.4%) indicated that their parents approve of their friends. Substantially higher proportions of the Chronic offenders and the SHOs indicated that their parents do not approve of their friends (41% and 40%, respectively).

**Table 5.7**  
**Characteristics of Respondents' Friendships, by Study Group**

	Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Where Friends Were Met<sup>1</sup></b>								
At school	18	90.0	33	78.6	25	61.0	9	45.0
On the street	1	5.0	2	4.8	8	19.5	4	20.0
At parties	1	5.0	4	9.5	4	9.8	0	0.0
In the neighbourhood	1	5.0	6	14.3	5	12.2	4	20.0
At work	0	0.0	3	7.1	2	4.9	1	5.0
Through other friends	4	20.0	5	11.9	4	9.8	4	20.0
Internet	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.4	0	0.0
Through gangs	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.4	0	0.0
In custody	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	9.8	6	30.0
Playing sports	5	25.0	0	0.0	1	2.4	2	10.0
Other <sup>2</sup>	3	15.0	5	11.9	7	17.1	4	20.0
<b>Age of Closest Friends</b>								
Mostly younger	0	0.0	1	2.4	2	5.0	0	0.0
Same age	15	75.0	22	53.7	24	60.0	8	40.0
Mostly older	1	5.0	11	26.8	9	22.5	9	45.0
Vary in age	4	20.0	7	17.1	5	12.5	3	15.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	41	100.0	40	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Parents Approve of Friends</b>								
Yes	17	85.0	22	52.4	12	30.8	5	25.0
No	3	15.0	10	23.8	16	41.0	8	40.0
Some yes, some no	0	0.0	5	11.9	7	17.9	5	25.0
Parents don't know friends	0	0.0	5	11.9	2	5.1	0	0.0
Don't know	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	5.1	2	10.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	39	100.0	20	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

<sup>1</sup> Multiple response data.

<sup>2</sup> Examples of other include: train station/bus stop, mall, church/mosque.

### Leisure Activities

Table 5.8 presents the results of several questions regarding the respondents' leisure time activities. When asked how frequently they engage in leisure activities with their parents, Gateway clients reported that this happens with the greatest frequency, with 75% indicating that they engage in activities with their parents either several times per week or once per week. Approximately one-half of the One-time offenders (47.5%), the Chronic offenders (51.4%), and the SHOs (52.6%) stated that they never engage in leisure activities with their parents.

**Table 5.8**  
**Characteristics of Respondents' Leisure Activities, by Study Group**

	Gateway		One-time Offender		Chronic Offender		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Frequency of Leisure Activities with Parents</b>								
Several times per week	4	25.0	4	10.0	4	10.8	3	15.8
Once per week	8	50.0	8	20.0	9	24.3	2	10.5
Once every few weeks	0	0.0	2	5.0	3	8.1	2	10.5
Once per month	1	6.3	2	5.0	1	2.7	1	5.3
<Once per month	1	6.3	5	12.5	1	2.7	1	5.3
Never	2	12.5	19	47.5	19	51.4	10	52.6
<b>Total</b>	16	100.0	40	100.0	37	100.0	19	100.0
<b>Involved in Organized Activities after School</b>								
Yes	15	75.0	13	31.0	9	22.0	2	10.0
No	5	25.0	29	69.0	32	78.0	18	90.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Involved in Adult-coached Sports</b>								
Yes	11	55.0	9	21.4	4	9.8	0	0.0
No	9	45.0	33	78.6	37	90.2	20	100.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Involved in Organized Non-sport Activities</b>								
Yes	7	35.0	3	7.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
No	13	65.0	39	92.9	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Involved in Clubs/Groups with Adult Leadership</b>								
Yes	3	15.0	5	11.9	2	4.9	0	0.0
No	17	85.0	37	88.1	39	95.1	20	100.0
<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

When asked if they engage in organized activities after school, the responses varied substantially across the study groups. Only 10% of the SHOs indicated that they do engage in organized activities after school, compared to 22% of Chronic offenders, 31% of One-time offenders, and 75% of Gateway clients. Similarly, no SHOs stated that they are involved in adult-coached sports, while 9.8% of Chronic offenders, 21.4% of One-time offenders, and 65% of Gateway clients said that they did participate in these activities.

Overall, fewer respondents stated that they engage in organized non-sport activities. No SHOs or Chronic offenders reported engaging in these activities, and only 7.1% of One-time offenders reported doing so. A total of 35% of Gateway clients stated that they do participate in organized non-sport activities. Few respondents in any group indicated that they participate in clubs or groups with adult leadership: responses varied from 0% for the SHOs to 15% for the Gateway clients.

## 5.1.5 Community Characteristics

### Community Safety

Respondents were asked several questions regarding their feelings of safety in their communities, including during their use of Calgary Transit. Table 5.9 presents data related to feelings of safety in the community. When asked if they felt safe when alone in their homes at night, almost all respondents in each group indicated that they felt safe, and ranged from 90% of the Gateway clients to 94.4% of the SHOs. Only three One-time offenders and one SHO indicated that they did not feel safe when alone at home at night.

**Table 5.9**

**Respondents' Feeling of Safety in Their Community, by Study Group**

	Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Feelings of Safety Alone at Home at Night</b>								
Safe	18	90.0	38	90.5	38	92.7	17	94.4
Generally safe	2	10.0	1	2.4	3	7.3	0	0.0
Unsafe	0	0.0	3	7.1	0	0.0	1	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Feelings of Safety in Community after Dark</b>								
Safe	16	80.0	30	71.4	35	85.4	19	95.0
Generally safe	1	5.0	6	14.3	1	2.4	1	5.0
Unsafe	3	15.0	6	14.3	5	12.2	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Ever Carried Weapon in Community</b>								
Yes	3	15.0	13	31.0	23	56.1	11	55.0
No	17	85.0	29	69.0	18	43.9	9	45.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>If Ever Carried Weapon in Community, Ever Used It</b>								
Yes	1	33.3	6	46.2	13	58.5	6	60.0
No	2	66.7	7	53.8	10	43.5	4	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.0</b>

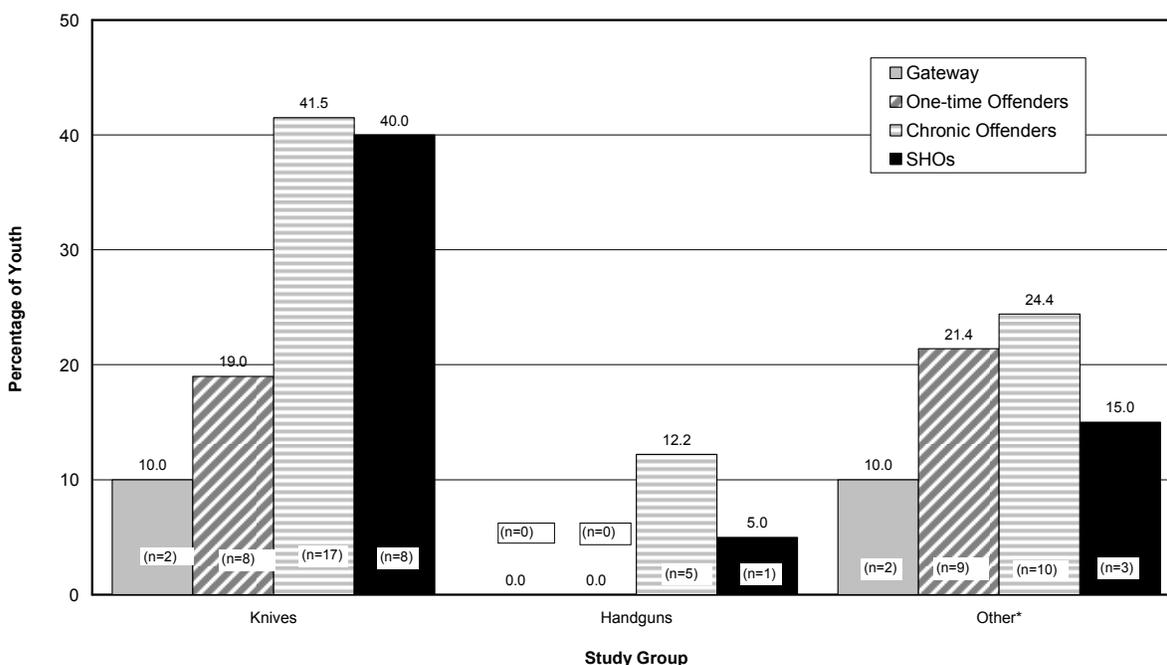
Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

Respondents' feelings of safety in their community were also quite high, and ranged from 71.4% of the One-time offenders to 95% of the SHOs. None of the SHOs stated that they feel unsafe in their community and, for the other three groups, feeling

unsafe in their community ranged from 12.2% of the Chronic offenders to 15% of the Gateway clients.

When asked if they had ever carried a weapon in their community, the majority of Gateway clients (85%) and One-time offenders (69%) stated that they had never carried a weapon. Conversely, the majority of Chronic offenders (56.1%) and SHOs (55%) indicated that they had carried a weapon in their community. Figure 5.4 presents the type of weapons that youth reported carrying in their community. Similar to the findings with respect to carrying weapons at school, the most common weapon reported was knives, followed by other weapons which include such objects as clubs, homemade weapons, and pellet/BB guns. Five respondents in the Chronic offender group and one SHO reported that they had carried a handgun in their community.

**Figure 5.4**  
Types of Weapons Carried in Community, by Study Group



Source of data: Youth Offender Interview  
 Total N for Gateway = 20; Total N for One-time Offenders = 42; Total N for Chronic Offenders = 41; Total N for SHOs = 20.  
 \*Other weapons include: club/bat/baton; sword/machete; homemade; pepper spray; pellet/BB guns; metal knuckles.

When youth who stated that they had carried a weapon in their community were asked if they had ever used it, responses ranged from a low of 33.3% for the Gateway clients to a high of 60% for the SHOs.

### Calgary Transit Experiences

Youth were asked several questions regarding their use of and feelings of safety while using Calgary Transit (buses and light rail transit), and their responses are presented in Table 5.10. The majority of respondents in each group indicated that they use the bus every day, and ranged from 60% of Gateway clients to 68.3% of Chronic

offenders. When asked how safe they feel waiting for or riding the bus alone after dark, the majority of youth in the One-time offender (65.6%), Chronic offender (69.4%), and SHO (82.4%) groups stated that they feel safe. A smaller proportion of the Gateway clients (41.2%) reported that they feel safe. Fewer than one-fifth of the respondents in each group reported feeling unsafe, and ranged from 0% for the SHOs to 18.8% of the One-time offenders.

**Table 5.10**  
**Characteristics of Respondents' Public Transit Use, by Study Group**

	Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Number of Times Ride Bus Per Week</b>								
None	3	15.0	9	21.4	6	14.6	4	20.0
<1	1	5.0	2	4.8	2	4.9	1	5.0
1	2	10.0	2	4.8	1	2.4	0	0.0
A few times	2	10.0	3	7.1	4	9.8	2	10.0
Daily	12	60.0	26	61.9	28	68.3	13	65.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Feelings of Safety Waiting for or Riding Bus Alone After Dark</b>								
Safe	7	41.2	21	65.6	25	69.4	14	82.4
Generally safe	7	41.2	5	15.6	7	19.4	3	17.6
Unsafe	3	17.6	6	18.8	4	11.1	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Number of Times Ride LRT Per Week</b>								
None	3	15.0	4	9.5	5	12.5	2	10.0
<1	2	10.0	9	21.4	7	17.5	4	20.0
1	4	20.0	3	7.1	1	2.5	2	10.0
A few times	5	25.0	7	16.7	6	15.0	2	10.0
Daily	6	30.0	19	45.2	21	52.5	10	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Feelings of Safety Waiting for or Riding LRT Alone After Dark</b>								
Safe	7	41.2	17	45.9	26	72.2	9	50.0
Generally safe	8	47.1	14	37.8	5	13.9	8	44.4
Unsafe	2	11.8	6	16.2	5	13.9	1	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

A smaller proportion of youth in each study group reported that they ride the LRT every day, ranging from 30% of the Gateway clients to 52.5% of the Chronic offenders. Most respondents in the Chronic offender group (72.2%) and half the respondents in the SHO group (50%) indicated that they feel safe while waiting for or riding the LRT alone after dark. A slightly smaller proportion of the Gateway clients (41.2%) and One-time offenders (45.9%) reported feeling safe. Relatively few individuals reporting feeling unsafe while using the LRT, ranging from 5.6% of the SHOs to 16.2% of the One-time offenders.

### 5.1.6 Self-reported Delinquency

Respondents were asked how old they were when they first had contact with the police because of something they did. The results for all four study groups were very similar. Chronic offenders had the lowest mean age (11.41; range 7-16), followed by Gateway clients (11.44; range 6-15), SHOs (11.58; range 6-16), and One-time offenders (12.27; range 6-16). When asked if they had engaged in any delinquent behaviour before they were caught, half of the Gateway clients (50%), about two-thirds of the Chronic offenders (63.4%) and One-time offenders (66.7%), and three-quarters of the SHOs (75%) said yes.

### Alcohol and Drug Use

Youth were asked a variety of questions about their alcohol and drug use, and the results are presented in Table 5.11. When asked if they had ever had 5 or more drinks of alcohol on one occasion, three-quarters (75%) of the Gateway clients, 88.1% of the One-time offenders, and all of the Chronic offenders and SHOs responded yes. When further asked if they had done this in the past year, the vast majority of respondents said yes (ranging from 70% of the SHOs to 94.6% of the One-time offenders).

Respondents also reported high levels of illegal drug use. An initial screening question asked respondents if they had ever used illegal drugs. Gateway clients reported the lowest levels of illegal drug use at 60%, followed by the One-time offenders (83.3%). All of the Chronic offenders and SHOs reported ever having used illegal drugs. Respondents who reported that they had used illegal drugs were then asked further questions regarding specific drugs. The most common illegal drug used by all study groups was marijuana. All of the respondents in each of the four groups reported that they had ever used marijuana, and almost all reported having used marijuana in the past year (ranging from 80% of the SHOs to 100% of the Gateway clients).

**Table 5.11**  
**Respondents' Alcohol and Drug Use, by Study Group**

		Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Had 5 or More Drinks on One Occasion</b>									
Ever	Yes	15	75.0	37	88.1	41	100.0	20	100.0
	No	5	25.0	5	11.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
	<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year <sup>1</sup>	Yes	14	93.3	35	94.6	35	85.4	14	70.0
	No	1	6.7	2	5.4	6	14.6	6	30.0
	<b>Total</b>	15	100.0	37	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Used Prescription Drugs Not Yours</b>									
Ever	Yes	2	10.0	13	31.0	16	39.0	11	55.0
	No	18	90.0	29	69.0	25	61.0	9	45.0
	<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes	2	100.0	5	41.7	5	31.3	3	30.0
	No	0	0.0	7	58.3	11	68.8	7	70.0
	<b>Total</b>	2	100.0	12	100.0	16	100.0	10	100.0
<b>Ever Used Illegal Drugs</b>									
	Yes	12	60.0	35	83.3	41	100.0	20	100.0
	No	8	40.0	7	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
	<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>If So,<sup>2</sup></b>									
<b>Used Marijuana</b>									
Ever	Yes	12	100.0	35	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
	No	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	<b>Total</b>	12	100.0	35	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes	12	100.0	31	91.2	35	85.4	16	80.0
	No	0	0.0	3	8.8	6	14.6	4	20.0
	<b>Total</b>	12	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Used Steroids</b>									
Ever	Yes	0	0.0	1	2.9	2	4.9	0	0.0
	No	12	100.0	33	97.1	39	95.1	20	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	12	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes	--	--	0	0.0	1	50.0	--	--
	No	--	--	1	100.0	1	50.0	--	--
	<b>Total</b>	--	--	1	100.0	2	100.0	--	--
<b>Used Ecstasy</b>									
Ever	Yes	5	41.7	26	76.5	36	87.8	18	90.0
	No	7	58.3	8	23.5	5	12.2	2	10.0
	<b>Total</b>	12	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes	4	80.0	15	57.7	25	69.4	9	50.0
	No	1	20.0	11	42.3	11	30.6	9	50.0
	<b>Total</b>	5	100.0	26	100.0	36	100.0	18	100.0

Table 5.11 (cont'd)

			Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
			n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Used Crystal Methamphetamine</b>										
Ever	Yes		2	16.7	5	14.7	6	14.6	6	30.0
	No		10	83.3	29	85.3	35	85.4	14	70.0
	<b>Total</b>		12	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes		2	100.0	1	20.0	2	33.3	0	0.0
	No		0	0.0	4	80.0	4	66.7	6	100.0
	<b>Total</b>		2	100.0	5	100.0	6	100.0	6	100.0
<b>Used Cocaine</b>										
Ever	Yes		3	25.0	18	52.9	31	75.6	13	65.0
	No		9	75.0	16	47.1	10	24.4	7	35.0
	<b>Total</b>		12	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes		3	100.0	10	55.6	21	67.7	7	53.8
	No		0	0.0	8	44.4	10	32.3	6	46.2
	<b>Total</b>		3	100.0	18	100.0	31	100.0	13	100.0
<b>Used Crack</b>										
Ever	Yes		1	8.3	6	17.6	17	41.5	10	50.0
	No		11	91.7	28	82.4	24	58.8	10	50.0
	<b>Total</b>		12	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes		1	100.0	5	83.3	11	64.7	5	50.0
	No		0	0.0	1	16.7	6	35.3	5	50.0
	<b>Total</b>		1	100.0	6	100.0	17	100.0	10	100.0
<b>Used Mushrooms</b>										
Ever	Yes		6	50.0	25	73.5	35	85.4	16	80.0
	No		6	50.0	9	26.5	6	14.6	4	20.0
	<b>Total</b>		12	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes		6	100.0	15	62.5	19	54.3	5	33.3
	No		0	0.0	9	37.5	16	45.7	10	66.7
	<b>Total</b>		6	100.0	24	100.0	35	100.0	15	100.0
<b>Used Other Illegal Drugs<sup>3</sup></b>										
Ever	Yes		4	33.3	10	29.4	16	39.0	4	20.0
	No		8	66.7	24	70.6	25	61.0	16	80.0
	<b>Total</b>		12	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes		1	25.0	6	60.0	7	43.8	2	50.0
	No		3	75.0	4	40.0	9	56.3	2	50.0
	<b>Total</b>		4	100.0	10	100.0	16	100.0	4	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

<sup>1</sup> Past year percentages are based on the number of youth who reported they ever engaged in the activity.

<sup>2</sup> Respondents who reported ever using illegal drugs were asked questions regarding specific drug use.

<sup>3</sup> Other illegal drugs include acid, speed, special k, heroin, salvia, and angel dust/pcp.

In addition to marijuana, many respondents who reported illegal drug use had also used other drugs, most notably ecstasy, mushrooms, and cocaine. Most of the SHOs (90%) and Chronic offenders (87.8%), three-quarters (76.5%) of the One-time offenders, and 41.7% of the Gateway clients reported ever having used ecstasy. Of these youth, at least half (SHOs and One-time offenders) and over two-thirds (Chronic

offenders and Gateway clients) reported having used ecstasy in the past year. The majority of respondents also reported ever having used mushrooms (ranging from 50% of Gateway clients to 85.4% of Chronic offenders). The pattern of past year use of this drug was different, however. All of the Gateway clients reported having used mushrooms in the past year, compared to two-thirds of the One-time offenders (62.5%), one-half of the Chronic offenders (54.3%), and one-third of the SHOs (33.3%). The proportions of respondents reporting ever having used cocaine were also high, particularly for the repeat offenders. One-quarter of the Gateway clients (25%) had used cocaine, compared to 52.9% of the One-time offenders, 65% of the SHOs, and 75.6% of the Chronic offenders. Past-year use of cocaine by these respondents was also high. Over half of the SHOs (53.8%) and One-time offenders (55.6%), over two-thirds of the Chronic offenders (67.7%), and all of the Gateway clients reported having used cocaine in the past year.

Respondents also reported using crack and crystal methamphetamine, although smaller proportions of youth used these drugs. Only 8.3% of Gateway clients and 17.6% of One-time offenders reported ever having used crack. Use of this drug was higher, however, for the repeat offenders; 41.5% of Chronic offenders and 50% of SHOs reported ever having used crack. Past year use of crack was high. Half of the SHOs (50%), almost two-thirds of Chronic offenders (64.7%), four-fifths of One-time offenders (83.3%), and all of the Gateway clients reported having used crack in the past year. A very small number of respondents reported ever having used steroids; only two Chronic offenders and one One-time offender reported using steroids.

Youth were asked if they used other illegal drugs (that weren't already specifically mentioned), and about one- to two-fifths reported using other illegal drugs (ranging from 20% of the SHOs to 39% of the Chronic offenders). Respondents were also asked if they used prescription drugs that weren't prescribed for them. Results varied, with only 10% of the Gateway clients reporting using someone else's prescription drugs, compared to 55% of the SHOs.

In an attempt to find out how accessible drugs are to these youth, respondents were asked if they knew where to find drugs if they wanted to use them. Table 5.12 indicates that the accessibility of drugs generally increases with the extent of criminal involvement of each study group. Over half of the Gateway clients (55%) knew where to find drugs, compared to three-quarters of the One-time offenders (73.8%), 85% of the SHOs, and 95.1% of the Chronic offenders.

**Table 5.12**

**Respondents' Other Drug Activities, by Study Group**

		Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Know Where to Find Drugs</b>									
	Yes	11	55.0	31	73.8	39	95.1	17	85.0
	No	9	45.0	11	26.2	2	4.9	3	15.0
	<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Bought Illegal Drugs</b>									
Ever	Yes	6	30.0	30	71.4	38	92.7	18	90.0
	No	14	70.0	12	28.6	3	7.3	2	10.0
	<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year <sup>1</sup>	Yes	5	83.3	24	80.0	30	78.9	12	66.7
	No	1	16.7	6	20.0	8	21.1	6	33.3
	<b>Total</b>	6	100.0	30	100.0	38	100.0	18	100.0
<b>Sold Illegal Drugs</b>									
Ever	Yes	7	35.0	20	47.6	28	68.3	14	70.0
	No	13	65.0	22	52.4	13	31.7	6	30.0
	<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes	6	100.0	10	50.0	16	57.1	9	64.3
	No	0	0.0	10	50.0	12	42.9	5	35.7
	<b>Total</b>	6	100.0	20	100.0	28	100.0	14	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

<sup>1</sup> Past year percentages are based on the number of youth who reported they ever engaged in the activity.

Table 5.12 also presents the results of questions regarding respondents' drug dealing activities. Respondents were asked if they had ever bought illegal drugs. A larger proportion of the repeat offenders admitted having bought illegal drugs in the past (92.7% of Chronic offenders and 90% of SHOs compared to 71.4% of One-time offenders and 30% of Gateway clients). When asked if they had bought illegal drugs in the past year, over two-thirds of the respondents in all the study groups reported that they had. Respondents were then asked if they had ever sold illegal drugs. One-third of the Gateway clients (35%), almost one-half of the One-time offenders (47.6%), and over two-thirds of the Chronic offenders (68.3%) and SHOs (70%) reported that they had sold illegal drugs. When asked if they had done this in the past year, the majority of respondents said that they had (ranging from 50% of the One-time offenders to 100% of the Gateway clients).

Public Transit Delinquency

Because of concerns regarding the safety of public transit, the interview schedule included a number of questions on respondents' public transit delinquency (see Table 5.13). Youth were first asked if they had ever ridden Calgary Transit without having a

valid ticket. Over two-thirds of the respondents in all four study groups reported having done this (65% of Gateway clients, 81% of One-time offenders, 82.9% of Chronic offenders, and 90% of SHOs). When asked if they had done this in the past year, over half said that they had (53.8% of Gateway clients, 55.6% of SHOs, 64.7% of Chronic offenders, and 79.4% of One-time offenders).

**Table 5.13**  
**Respondents' Public Transit Delinquency, by Study Group**

			Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
			n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Ridden Calgary Transit Without Valid Ticket</b>										
Ever	Yes		13	65.0	34	81.0	34	82.9	18	90.0
	No		7	35.0	8	19.0	7	17.1	2	10.0
	<b>Total</b>		20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year <sup>1</sup>	Yes		7	53.8	27	79.4	22	64.7	10	55.6
	No		6	46.2	7	20.6	12	35.3	8	44.4
	<b>Total</b>		13	100.0	34	100.0	34	100.0	18	100.0
<b>Damaged/Vandalized/Tagged Calgary Transit Property</b>										
Ever	Yes		0	0.0	15	35.7	9	22.0	7	35.0
	No		20	100.0	27	64.3	32	78.0	13	65.0
	<b>Total</b>		20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes		--	--	5	33.3	7	77.8	4	57.1
	No		--	--	10	66.7	2	22.2	3	42.9
	<b>Total</b>		--	--	15	100.0	9	100.0	7	100.0
<b>Harassed Anyone on Calgary Transit (or at the Station)<sup>2</sup></b>										
Ever	Yes		3	25.0	7	19.4	12	37.5	12	70.6
	No		9	75.0	29	80.6	20	62.5	5	29.4
	<b>Total</b>		12	100.0	36	100.0	32	100.0	17	100.0
Past Year	Yes		1	50.0	4	57.1	8	72.7	3	27.3
	No		1	50.0	3	42.9	3	27.3	8	72.7
	<b>Total</b>		2	100.0	7	100.0	11	100.0	11	100.0
<b>Assaulted Anyone on Calgary Transit Property<sup>3</sup></b>										
Ever	Yes		1	20.0	5	15.2	17	45.9	14	70.0
	No		4	80.0	28	84.8	20	54.1	6	30.0
	<b>Total</b>		5	100.0	33	100.0	37	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes		1	100.0	4	80.0	10	58.8	3	21.4
	No		0	0.0	1	20.0	7	41.2	11	78.6
	<b>Total</b>		1	100.0	5	100.0	17	100.0	14	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

<sup>1</sup> Past year percentages are based on the number of youth who reported they ever engaged in the activity.

<sup>2</sup> This question is based on the total number of youth who reported ever harassing someone (see Table 5.15).

<sup>3</sup> This question is based on the total number of youth who reported ever assaulting someone (see Table 5.15).

Respondents were asked if they had ever damaged/vandalized/tagged Calgary Transit property. None of the Gateway clients reported doing this activity. Less than one-quarter of the Chronic offenders (22%) and just over one-third of SHOs (35%) and One-time offenders (35.7%) reported damaging Calgary Transit property in some way. When asked if they had done it in the past year, one-third of the One-time offenders (33.3%), over one-half of the SHOs (57.1%), and over three-quarters of the Chronic offenders (77.8%) said they had.

Respondents were asked if they had ever harassed anyone on Calgary Transit (or at the station). As shown in Table 5.13, the results differed by study group. Smaller proportions of Gateway clients (25%) and One-time offenders (19.4%) reported ever doing this, compared to the Chronic offenders (37.5%) and the SHOs (70.6%). When asked if they had done this in the past year, just over one-quarter of the SHOs (27.3%) said they had, compared to over half of the Gateway clients (50%) and One-time offenders (57.1%), and almost three-quarters of the Chronic offenders (72.7%).

Lastly, respondents who had reported ever assaulting or hurting someone were asked if they had ever assaulted anyone on Calgary Transit property (see Table 5.13). Results ranged from 15.2% of the One-time offenders and 20% of the Gateway clients to 45.9% of the Chronic offenders and 70% of the SHOs. When asked if they had done this in the past year, less than one-quarter of the SHOs said they had (21.4%), but the majority of youth in the other study groups said they had assaulted someone on Calgary Transit property in the past year.

### Property Crimes

The interview schedule included a series of questions on respondents' involvement in property crimes, both ever and in the past year. The results are presented in Table 5.14. Overall, the level of respondents' involvement in property crimes increased with the extent of criminal involvement of the study group. Youth were asked if they had ever damaged or destroyed someone else's property on purpose. Over one-third of the Gateway clients (35%), two-thirds of the One-time offenders, and three-quarters of the Chronic offenders (75.6%) and SHOs (75%) said that they had. When asked if they had done this in the past year, the reverse pattern was true; of those who reported that they had ever engaged in this type of behaviour, one-quarter of the SHOs (26.7%), 41.4% of the Chronic offenders, 48.1% of the One-time offenders, and 85.7% of the Gateway clients reported having damaged or destroyed someone else's property on purpose in the past year. Respondents were then asked if they had ever broken into a house. Only one Gateway client (5%) reported doing this activity. Results were higher for One-time offenders (31%), Chronic offenders (61%) and SHOs (80%), but most of the respondents had not done this activity in the past year.

**Table 5.14**  
**Respondents' Involvement in Property Crimes, by Study Group**

		Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Damaged or Destroyed Others' Property</b>									
Ever	Yes	7	35.0	28	66.7	31	75.6	15	75.0
	No	13	65.0	14	33.3	10	24.4	5	25.0
<b>Total</b>		20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year <sup>1</sup>	Yes	6	85.7	13	48.1	12	41.4	4	26.7
	No	1	14.3	14	51.9	17	58.6	11	73.3
<b>Total</b>		7	100.0	27	100.0	29	100.0	15	100.0
<b>Broken into a House</b>									
Ever	Yes	1	5.0	13	31.0	25	61.0	16	80.0
	No	19	95.0	29	69.0	16	39.0	4	20.0
<b>Total</b>		20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes	0	0.0	5	41.7	6	24.0	3	20.0
	No	1	100.0	7	58.3	19	76.0	12	80.0
<b>Total</b>		1	100.0	12	100.0	25	100.0	15	100.0
<b>Stolen Anything<sup>2</sup></b>									
Ever	Yes	17	85.0	34	81.0	41	100.0	19	95.0
	No	3	15.0	8	19.0	0	0.0	1	5.0
<b>Total</b>		20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>If So,</b>									
<b>Stolen Something Worth Less Than \$50</b>									
Ever	Yes	15	88.2	27	79.4	26	63.4	15	83.3
	No	2	11.8	7	20.6	15	36.6	3	16.7
<b>Total</b>		17	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	18	100.0
Past Year	Yes	9	60.0	12	44.4	12	46.2	10	66.7
	No	6	40.0	15	55.6	14	53.8	5	33.3
<b>Total</b>		15	100.0	27	100.0	26	100.0	15	100.0
<b>Stolen Something Worth More Than \$50</b>									
Ever	Yes	8	47.1	20	58.8	37	90.2	15	83.3
	No	9	52.9	14	41.2	4	9.8	3	16.7
<b>Total</b>		17	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	18	100.0
Past Year	Yes	7	87.5	6	30.0	22	59.5	6	40.0
	No	1	12.5	14	70.0	15	40.5	9	60.0
<b>Total</b>		8	100.0	20	100.0	37	100.0	15	100.0
<b>Stolen a Car or Motorcycle</b>									
Ever	Yes	3	18.8	11	32.4	29	70.7	14	77.8
	No	13	81.3	23	67.6	12	29.3	4	22.2
<b>Total</b>		16	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	18	100.0
Past Year	Yes	3	100.0	3	27.3	16	55.2	8	57.1
	No	0	0.0	8	72.7	13	44.8	6	42.9
<b>Total</b>		3	100.0	11	100.0	29	100.0	14	100.0

**Table 5.14 (cont'd)**

		Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Stolen Something with Group of Friends</b>									
Ever	Yes	9	56.3	23	67.6	30	73.2	16	88.2
	No	7	43.8	11	32.4	11	26.8	2	11.1
	<b>Total</b>	16	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	18	100.0
Past Year	Yes	6	66.7	9	39.1	12	41.4	6	37.5
	No	3	33.3	14	60.9	17	58.6	10	62.5
	<b>Total</b>	9	100.0	23	100.0	29	100.0	16	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

<sup>1</sup> Past year percentages are based on the number of youth who reported they ever engaged in the activity.

<sup>2</sup> Respondents who reported ever stealing anything were asked additional questions about stealing.

Youth were asked if they had ever stolen anything from a place or a person and, if yes, were asked further questions regarding what they had stolen (see Table 5.14). The vast majority of youth in the four study groups reported having stolen something in the past (81% of One-time offenders, 85% of Gateway clients, 95% of SHOs, and 100% of Chronic offenders). Respondents were then asked if they had stolen something worth less than \$50. Again, of those who had ever stolen something, most respondents had done this activity (ranging from 63.4% of the Chronic offenders to 88.2% of the Gateway clients). Approximately one-half to two-thirds of respondents in all study groups also reported stealing something worth less than \$50 in the past year.

When asked if they had ever stolen something worth \$50 or more, the results differed by study group. A larger proportion of the repeat offenders (90.2% of the Chronic offenders and 83.3% of the SHOs) reported doing this activity than the One-time offenders (58.8%) or Gateway clients (47.1%). When asked if they had stolen something worth \$50 or more in the past year, the majority of Gateway clients (87.5%) and Chronic offenders (59.5%) said yes.

A similar pattern of results were obtained when respondents were asked if they had ever stolen a car or motorcycle. The majority of repeat offenders said yes (77.8% of SHOs and 70.7% of Chronic offenders), while the majority of the other two study groups said no (81.3% of Gateway clients and 67.6% of One-time offenders). All of the Gateway clients who said they had stolen a car or motorcycle said they did this activity in the past year, compared to just over half of the SHOs (57.1%) and Chronic offenders (55.2%), and one-quarter of the One-time offenders (27.3%).

The final question in the interview schedule regarding property crimes asked respondents if they had ever stolen something with a group of friends. The majority of respondents said they had done this activity, and the proportion increased with the study groups' level of criminal involvement (56.3% of Gateway clients, 67.6% of One-time offenders, 73.2% of Chronic offenders, and 88.2% of SHOs). Interestingly, more Gateway clients said they had stolen something with a group of friends in the past year (66.7%) than the other study groups (41.4% of Chronic offenders, 39.1% of One-time offenders, and 37.5% of SHOs).

## Crimes Against the Person

Respondents were asked a series of questions about their involvement in person crimes, both ever and in the past year (see Table 5.15). The first question asked if respondents had ever taken or tried to take something from someone by using force or threat of force. Almost three-quarters of the SHOs (72.2%) reported doing this, compared to less than two-thirds of the Chronic offenders (61%), one-third of the One-time offenders (32.4%), and none of the Gateway clients. When asked if they had done this in the past year, the majority of the One-time offenders (63.6%) and Chronic offenders (56%) said yes, compared to less than one-quarter of the SHOs (23.1%).

The next question asked youth if they had ever harassed, threatened or bullied someone. The vast majority of the One-time offenders (85.7%), SHOs (85%), and Chronic offenders (80.5%) said they had, compared to three-fifths of the Gateway clients (60%). The majority of respondents in all study groups also reported that they had done this activity in the past year. Respondents who said they had harassed, threatened or bullied someone were then asked if they had ever threatened someone with a weapon, including having a weapon on them while intimidating, assaulting, or threatening someone. The proportion of respondents who said they had done this activity increased with the study groups' level of criminal involvement. Only one Gateway client (8.3%) threatened someone with a weapon, compared to 47.2% of One-time offenders, 60.6% of Chronic offenders, and 82.4% of SHOs. Over half of these respondents also reported doing this activity in the past year.

Respondents were asked if they had ever assaulted or hurt someone (i.e., slapped, punched, kicked, struck with an object, etc.). One-quarter of the Gateway clients (25%) said they had done this, compared to the vast majority of respondents in the other study groups (81% of One-time offenders, 90.2% of Chronic offenders, and 100% of the SHOs). The large majority of these respondents also reported assaulting or hurting someone in the past year (ranging from 60.6% of One-time offenders to 81.1% of Chronic offenders). The respondents who said they had assaulted or hurt someone were then asked if they had ever assaulted or hurt someone with a weapon. The results differed widely by study group. None of the Gateway clients had done this, compared to almost half of the One-time offenders (48.5%), 59.5% of the Chronic offenders, and almost all the SHOs (90%). Approximately half of these respondents reported that they had assaulted or hurt someone with a weapon in the past year.

Table 5.15

Respondents' Involvement in Person Crimes, by Study Group

		Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>With Group of Friends, Fought Others</b>									
Ever	Yes	9	45.0	27	64.3	28	68.3	15	75.0
	No	11	55.0	15	35.7	13	31.7	5	25.0
	<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year <sup>1</sup>	Yes	5	55.6	18	66.7	11	40.7	9	60.0
	No	4	44.4	9	33.3	16	59.3	6	40.0
	<b>Total</b>	9	100.0	27	100.0	27	100.0	15	100.0
<b>Taken (or Tried) Something by Force or Threat of Force</b>									
Ever	Yes	0	0.0	11	32.4	25	61.0	13	72.2
	No	16	100.0	23	67.6	16	39.0	5	27.8
	<b>Total</b>	16	100.0	34	100.0	41	100.0	18	100.0
Past Year	Yes	--	--	7	63.6	14	56.0	3	23.1
	No	--	--	4	36.4	11	44.0	10	76.9
	<b>Total</b>	--	--	11	100.0	25	100.0	13	100.0
<b>Harassed, Threatened or Bullied Someone<sup>2</sup></b>									
Ever	Yes	12	60.0	36	85.7	33	80.5	17	85.0
	No	8	40.0	6	14.3	8	19.5	3	15.0
	<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes	11	100.0	24	68.6	23	71.9	9	60.0
	No	0	0.0	11	31.4	9	28.1	6	40.0
	<b>Total</b>	11	100.0	35	100.0	32	100.0	15	100.0
<b>If So, Threatened Someone with Weapon</b>									
Ever	Yes	1	8.3	17	47.2	20	60.6	14	82.4
	No	11	91.7	19	52.8	13	39.4	3	17.6
	<b>Total</b>	12	100.0	36	100.0	33	100.0	17	100.0
Past Year	Yes	1	100.0	10	58.8	11	55.0	7	53.8
	No	0	0.0	7	41.2	9	45.0	6	46.2
	<b>Total</b>	1	100.0	17	100.0	20	100.0	13	100.0
<b>Assaulted or Hurt Someone<sup>3</sup></b>									
Ever	Yes	5	25.0	34	81.0	37	90.2	20	100.0
	No	15	75.0	8	19.0	4	9.8	0	0.0
	<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes	4	80.0	20	60.6	30	81.1	13	68.4
	No	1	20.0	13	39.4	7	18.9	6	31.6
	<b>Total</b>	5	100.0	33	100.0	37	100.0	19	100.0

Table 5.15 (cont'd)

			Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
			n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>If So,</b>										
<b>Assaulted or Hurt Someone with Weapon</b>										
Ever	Yes		0	0.0	16	48.5	22	59.5	18	90.0
	No		5	100.0	17	51.5	15	40.5	2	10.0
	<b>Total</b>		5	100.0	33	100.0	37	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes		--	--	7	46.7	11	52.4	8	47.1
	No		--	--	8	53.3	10	47.6	9	52.9
	<b>Total</b>		--	--	15	100.0	21	100.0	17	100.0
<b>Assaulted Someone with Friends</b>										
Ever	Yes		3	60.0	18	52.9	26	70.3	17	85.0
	No		2	40.0	16	47.1	11	29.7	3	15.0
	<b>Total</b>		5	100.0	34	100.0	37	100.0	20	100.0
Past Year	Yes		2	66.7	10	55.6	13	50.0	7	41.2
	No		1	33.3	8	44.4	13	50.0	10	58.8
	<b>Total</b>		3	100.0	18	100.0	26	100.0	17	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

<sup>1</sup> Past year percentages are based on the number of youth who reported they ever engaged in the activity.

<sup>2</sup> Respondents who reported ever harassing, threatening or bullying someone were asked if they had done so with a weapon.

<sup>3</sup> Respondents who reported ever assaulting or hurting someone were asked additional questions about these behaviours.

The next questions in the interview schedule were designed to explore whether youth were co-offending with others. Respondents who had said they had assaulted or hurt someone were asked if they had ever assaulted someone with one or more of their friends. The majority of the respondents in all four study groups said they had (52.9% of One-time offenders, 60% of Gateway clients, 70.3% of Chronic offenders, and 85% of SHOs). At least half of these respondents in the Gateway, One-time, and Chronic offender groups also reported doing this activity in the past year. All respondents were then asked if, together with a group of friends, they had ever fought with others. Almost half of the Gateway clients (45%), about two-thirds of the One-time offenders (64.3%) and Chronic offenders (68.3%), and three-quarters of the SHOs (75%) said they had. When asked if they had done this in the past year, results ranged from 40.7% of the Chronic offenders to 66.7% of the One-time offenders.

The final question in the delinquency section of the interview schedule asked respondents if they had ever had or tried to have any kind of sexual contact, including kissing or sexual touching, with someone against their will. Only two respondents (one Chronic offender and one SHO) reported ever doing this activity, and neither of them had done it in the past year.

### 5.1.7 Knowledge of and Experience with Gangs

Several questions in the interview schedule delved into respondents' knowledge of gangs, and the results are presented in Table 5.16. Respondents were asked if there are (or were if they are no longer in school) gangs at their school. Just under half of most respondents in each of the study groups reported that there are (or were) gangs at their school (50% of One-time offenders, 47.5% of Chronic offenders, 45% of Gateway clients, and 36.8% of SHOs). When asked if there are gangs in their community, results differed by study group; 30% of the Gateway clients and 37.5% of the One-time offenders said yes, compared to 57.5% of the Chronic offenders and 60% of the SHOs.

**Table 5.16**

**Respondents' Knowledge of and Experience with Gangs, by Study Group**

	Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Gangs at School</b>								
Yes	9	45.0	20	50.0	19	47.5	7	36.8
No	11	55.0	20	50.0	21	52.5	12	63.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Gangs in Community</b>								
Yes	6	30.0	15	37.5	23	57.5	12	60.0
No	14	70.0	25	62.5	17	42.5	8	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Any Friends Belong to a Gang</b>								
Yes	3	15.8	15	36.6	22	55.0	14	70.0
No	16	84.2	26	63.4	18	45.0	6	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Gang Tried to Recruit Respondent</b>								
Yes	3	15.0	14	34.1	24	60.0	13	65.0
No	17	85.0	27	65.9	16	40.0	7	35.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Ever Been a Member of a Gang</b>								
Yes	2	10.0	7	17.1	22	55.0	10	52.6
No	18	90.0	34	82.9	18	45.0	9	47.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Currently a Gang Member</b>								
Yes	1	5.0	1	2.5	9	22.5	6	30.0
No	19	95.0	39	97.5	31	77.5	14	70.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Want to Exit Gang</b>								
Yes	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	25.0	0	0.0
No	1	100.0	0	0.0	3	15.0	4	50.0
Maybe	0	0.0	1	20.0	1	5.0	1	12.5
Got out	0	0.0	4	80.0	11	55.0	3	37.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

Respondents were asked if any of their friends belong to a gang, and the proportion of positive responses increased with the study groups' level of criminal involvement (15.8% of Gateway clients, 36.6% of One-time offenders, 55% of Chronic offenders, and 70% of SHOs). Very similar results were obtained when respondents were asked if a gang has ever tried to recruit them as a member (15% of Gateway clients, 34.1% of One-time offenders, 60% of Chronic offenders, and 65% of SHOs).

The next questions asked respondents about their own gang involvement. First, respondents were asked if they have ever been a member of a gang. A larger proportion of the repeat offenders said that they had been a member of a gang (55% of the Chronic offenders and 52.6% of the SHOs) compared to the other two study groups (17.1% of One-time offenders and 10% of Gateway clients). Respondents were then asked if they are currently a gang member, and the percentages of respondents who said yes in all four study groups were much lower. SHOs had the highest percentage of gang membership at 30%, followed by Chronic offenders (22.5%), Gateway clients (5%), and One-time offenders (2.5%). Finally, respondents were asked if they want to get out of the gang. Among Chronic offenders who are gang members, 25% said yes. None of the respondents in the other three study groups who are gang members expressed a wish to exit the gang.

Respondents who had ever been a member of a gang were asked a few questions about the characteristics of their gang (see Table 5.17). Most of the gangs were very large. Three-quarters (75%) of the One-time offenders' gangs had over 100 members, three-quarters (75%) of the SHOs' gangs had either over 100 members or "unknown/many" members, and over half of the Chronic offenders' gangs (53%) had over 100 members or "unknown/many." Results about the gender of gang members varied by study group. Three-quarters of the SHOs' gangs were males only, and one-quarter were both males and females. Both the One-time offenders' gangs and the Chronic offenders' gangs had larger proportions of both males and females (80% and 60% respectively). None of the gangs were characterized as females only. Lastly, respondents were asked if all the members of their gang belong to the same ethnic group. The majority responded that they were not all the same ethnicity (100% of the SHOs, 85% of the Chronic offenders, and 60% of the One-time offenders).

**Table 5.17**

**Characteristics of Respondents' Gangs, by Study Group**

	Gateway		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Size of Gang</b>								
<10	1	100.0	0	0.0	1	5.9	1	12.5
10-50	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	35.3	1	12.5
50-100	0	0.0	1	25.0	1	5.9	0	0.0
>100	0	0.0	3	75.0	7	41.2	3	37.5
Unknown/Many	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	11.8	3	37.5
<b>Total</b>	1	100.0	4	100.0	17	100.0	8	100.0
<b>Gender of Gang Members</b>								
Just Males	1	100.0	1	20.0	8	40.0	6	75.0
Just Females	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Both	0	0.0	4	80.0	12	60.0	2	25.0
<b>Total</b>	1	100.0	5	100.0	20	100.0	8	100.0
<b>All Gang Members Same Ethnicity</b>								
Yes	--	--	2	40.0	3	15.0	0	0.0
No	--	--	3	60.0	17	85.0	8	100.0
<b>Total</b>	--	--	5	100.0	20	100.0	8	100.0

Source of data: Youth Offender Interview and Youth Probation File Review.

**5.1.8 Justice System Involvement**

The following section details the justice system involvement for three of the four groups – One-time offenders, Chronic offenders, and SHOs – taken from the Justice Online Information Network (JOIN), which provides information on court contacts and outcomes. Given Gateway youth were diverted to extrajudicial measures (and away from the court) at the time of their contact with police, their justice system involvement is not provided.

**Incident Involvement**

Table 5.18 presents a general summary of incident involvement for the three study groups. Incidents were defined for the purpose of the study as all charges – both substantive and administrative – pertaining to the same person and having the same date of offence.

Table 5.18

Criminal Incident Involvement, by Study Group

	One-time Offenders	Chronic Offenders	SHOs
<b>Total Number of Criminal Incidents<sup>1</sup></b>			
Mean	1.9	19.0	27.0
Range	1-8	6-38	10-48
n	42	41	20
<b>Total Number of Criminal Incidents with Findings of Guilt</b>			
Mean	1.3	14.6	20.7
Range	1-4	5-28	5-41
n	42	41	20
<b>Total Number of Incidents with Substantive Charges<sup>2</sup></b>			
Mean	1.6	10.3	15.5
Range	1-5	5-18	7-31
n	42	41	20
<b>Total Number of Incidents with Substantive Findings of Guilt</b>			
Mean	1.0	8.5	11.9
Range	1-1	5-16	3-28
n	42	41	20
<b>Total Number of Incidents with Administration of Justice Charges Only<sup>3</sup></b>			
Mean	1.6	9.3	12.1
Range	1-3	1-29	2-31
n	9	38	19
<b>Total Number of Incidents with Administration of Justice Findings of Guilt Only</b>			
Mean	1.6	6.8	9.2
Range	1-3	1-23	1-25
n	7	37	19

Source of data: Justice Online Information Network.

<sup>1</sup> Refers to all charges (substantive and administration of justice) pertaining to the same person and having the same date of offence.

<sup>2</sup> Substantive charges include all summary, indictable and hybrid offences (*Criminal Code*, *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, etc.).

<sup>3</sup> Administration of justice charges refer to breaches, failures to appear, etc.

Overall, SHOs had the highest average number of criminal incidents (27.0) as well as the highest average number of incidents with at least one finding of guilt (20.7). This was followed by the Chronic offenders, having an average of 19.0 criminal incidents on their record, and an average of 14.6 incidents with at least one finding of guilt. Finally, One-time offenders had an average of 1.9 criminal incidents on their record, and 1.3 incidents with at least one finding of guilt.

To be selected for the study, a youth had to have one criminal incident with a substantive finding of guilt (One-time offenders), five or more criminal incidents with substantive findings of guilt (Chronic offenders), or be designated as a Serious Habitual Offender (SHO). As expected, where One-time offenders averaged 1.6 incidents with substantive charges, they averaged only 1.0 incident with a finding of guilt. On the other hand, Chronic offenders averaged 10.3 incidents with substantive charges and 8.5 incidents with substantive findings of guilt. Finally, SHO youth averaged the highest number of incidents with substantive charges (15.5) and substantive findings of guilt (11.9).

Some youth records contained criminal incidents that involved only administration of justice charges, such as breach of probation, failure to appear in court, and/or unlawfully at large. One-time offenders with administration of justice incidents (n=9) averaged 1.6 on their record, with a similar average number of incidents having findings of guilt (1.6). Chronic offender and SHO records showed substantially more such incidents, averaging 9.3 and 12.1 incidents, respectively. Chronic offenders having administration of justice findings of guilt (n=37) averaged 6.8 incidents, while SHO youth (n=19) averaged 9.2 incidents.

Table 5.19 depicts the average proportions of total incidents (charges and findings of guilt) represented by substantive incidents versus administration of justice incidents for each study group. For One-time offenders, 90.7% of their total number of incidents were substantive, with 9.3% being administration of justice; similar proportions are demonstrated for incidents with findings of guilt. Chronic offender and SHO incidents show significant differences from One-time offenders, however, with 60.6% of charged Chronic offender incidents and 59.9% of charged SHO incidents being substantive in nature, and nearly 40% of their charged incidents being administration of justice (39.4% and 40.1%, respectively). With regard to the total number of incidents where findings of guilt were involved, the proportion of substantive incidents was slightly higher for Chronic offenders (64.8%) than SHOs (59.7%), with administration of justice incidents composing more of the SHOs' guilty incidents (40.3% versus 35.2% for Chronic offenders).

**Table 5.19**

**Proportions of Substantive vs. Administration of Justice Incidents Composing Total Incident Involvement (Charges and Findings of Guilt), by Study Group**

	<b>One-time Offenders</b>	<b>Chronic Offenders</b>	<b>SHOs</b>
<b>Charges</b>			
Substantive incidents <sup>1</sup>	90.7	60.6	59.9
Administration of justice incidents only	9.3	39.4	40.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
n	42	41	20
<b>Findings of Guilt</b>			
Substantive incidents	90.3	64.8	59.7
Administration of justice incidents only	9.7	35.2	40.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
n	42	41	20

Source of data: Justice Online Information Network.

<sup>1</sup> Substantive incidents may include administration of justice charges.

Involvement of Co-accused

Table 5.20 summarizes the involvement of co-accused in substantive criminal incidents for each study group. Less than half (35.7%) of the One-time offenders had at least one substantive incident involving co-accused, with significantly more Chronic (70.7%) and SHO (80%) youth participating in a criminal incident involving a co-accused. Of those youth who had participated in at least one incident involving a co-accused, 85.6% of the One-time offenders' total number of incidents involved co-accused, where only 19.8% and 21.9% of the Chronic offenders' and SHOs' incidents (respectively) involved co-accused. The data demonstrated that, on average, a similar number of co-accused were involved per incident for each group, with One-time offenders having the highest average number of co-accused involved per incident (1.8).

Involvement with Extrajudicial Measures/Sanctions

Table 5.21 summarizes the involvement of the study groups with Extrajudicial Measures (EJM) and/or Extrajudicial Sanctions (EJS). One-time offenders demonstrated the lowest involvement with EJM/EJS (35.7%), whereas over half of the Chronic and SHO youth were involved at least once (58.5% and 55%, respectively). Of those youth who had contact with EJM/EJS, two-thirds of the One-time offenders (n=10) had only one incident where EJM/EJS was used, with the remaining third have two or more contacts with EJM/EJS. Generally, SHOs and Chronic offenders in particular were less likely to have multiple contacts with EJM/EJS, with nearly 80% of the Chronic offenders and nearly three-quarters (72.7%) of SHOs having only one incident diverted.

**Table 5.20**  
**Involvement of Co-accused, by Study Group**

	One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Co-accused Involved in at Least One Substantive Incident</b>						
Yes	15	35.7	29	70.7	16	80.0
No	27	64.3	12	29.3	4	20.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Proportion of Incidents Involving Co-accused</b>						
Mean (%)	85.6		19.8		21.7	
n	15		29		16	
<b>Average Number of Co-accused Involved per Incident</b>						
Mean	1.8		1.4		1.2	
Range	1-7		1-4		1-2	
n	15		29		16	

Source of data: Justice Online Information Network.

**Table 5.21**  
**Involvement with Extrajudicial Measures (EJM)/  
Extrajudicial Sanctions (EJS), by Study Group**

	One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Use of EJM/EJS</b>						
Yes	15	35.7	24	58.5	11	55.0
No	23	54.8	17	41.5	9	45.0
Unknown	4	9.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Number of Incidents Where EJM/EJS Were Used</b>						
1	10	66.7	19	79.2	8	72.7
2	4	26.7	4	16.7	1	9.1
3+	1	6.7	1	4.2	2	18.2
<b>Total</b>	15	100.0	24	100.0	11	100.0
<b>First Contact with EJM/EJS: Charge Type</b>						
Person crime	3	20.0	6	25.0	3	27.3
Property crime	11	73.3	17	70.8	7	63.6
Drug-related crime	1	6.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other crime <sup>1</sup>	0	0.0	1	4.2	1	9.1
<b>Total</b>	15	100.0	24	100.0	11	100.0
<b>First Contact with EJM/EJS: Outcome</b>						
Successful	13	86.7	18	75.0	9	81.8
Not successful	2	13.3	6	25.0	2	18.2
<b>Total</b>	15	100.0	24	100.0	11	100.0

Source of data: Justice Online Information Network.

<sup>1</sup> Examples of other include: *Traffic Safety Act* offences, and weapons offences, etc.

Analysis of the first contact with EJM/EJS revealed relatively consistent results across groups. With regard to offence type, a majority of youth in all groups committed a property crime that was diverted to EJM/EJS. However, whereas 73.3% and 70.8% of One-time and Chronic offenders received EJM/EJS for property offences, respectively, slightly fewer SHOs were diverted as a result of property offences (63.6%). Chronic offenders and SHOs were slightly more likely to receive their first diversion for person (25% and 27.3%, respectively) and other (4.2% and 9.1%, respectively) crimes than One-time offenders, of whom 20% received their first diversion for a crime against the person and none for other crimes; however, the only first-time diversion for a drug-related crime was recorded for a One-time offender. Outcomes were mostly positive across all groups, particularly for One-time offenders, of whom 86.7% had a successful outcome recorded on their record. The proportion of successful outcomes was also high, but slightly lower for SHOs (81.8%) and Chronic offenders (75%); the rate of unsuccessful outcomes was highest for Chronic offenders, at one-quarter of all who had been diverted.

### Offence Types

For the purposes of the analysis, offences were categorized into crimes against the person (i.e., homicide, sex offences, robbery, level 1, 2 and 3 assault, other assault, miscellaneous person), property crimes (house/shop/other break and enter, theft over \$5,000, theft under \$5,000, possession of stolen property, fraud, other property) drug-related crimes (i.e., possession, trafficking), and other crimes (i.e., vice/gaming, explosives/weapons, *Criminal Code* traffic, *Highway Traffic Act/Motor Vehicle Administration Act*, provincial statutes, municipal statutes, public mischief/disturbance, obstructing an officer). Table 5.22 depicts the presence of charges and findings of guilt for each offence type, across the study groups. With regard to crimes against the person, one-half (50%) of the One-time offenders had at least one charge, with 85.7% having at least one finding of guilt for a person crime. Nearly all of the Chronic offenders (90.2%) and SHOs (95%) had at least one person crime charge, with 91.9% of those Chronic offenders and all of the SHOs having at least one finding of guilt for a person crime. Findings were similar for property crimes, with 47.6% of One-time offenders having at least one property crime charge and 80% of those youth having at least one finding of guilt. All of the Chronic offenders and SHOs in the sample had at least one property crime charge on their record, with 100% of Chronic offenders and 95% of SHOs having at least one finding of guilt.

Table 5.22

Types of Offences on Record (Charges and Findings of Guilt), by Study Group

Charge Types		One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Person Crime Charges</b>							
	Yes	21	50.0	37	90.2	19	95.0
	No	21	50.0	4	9.8	1	5.0
	<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Findings of Guilt</b>							
	Yes	18	85.7	34	91.9	19	100.0
	No	3	14.3	3	8.1	0	0.0
	<b>Total</b>	21	100.0	37	100.0	19	100.0
<b>Property Crime Charges</b>							
	Yes	20	47.6	41	100.0	20	100.0
	No	22	52.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
	<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Findings of Guilt</b>							
	Yes	16	80.0	41	100.0	19	95.0
	No	4	20.0	0	0.0	1	5.0
	<b>Total</b>	20	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Drug-related Charges</b>							
	Yes	7	16.7	10	24.4	11	55.0
	No	35	83.3	31	75.6	9	45.0
	<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Findings of Guilt</b>							
	Yes	5	71.4	8	80.0	8	72.7
	No	2	28.6	2	20.0	3	27.3
	<b>Total</b>	7	100.0	10	100.0	11	100.0
<b>Other Crime Charges<sup>1</sup></b>							
	Yes	10	23.8	28	68.3	18	90.0
	No	32	76.2	13	31.7	2	10.0
	<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Findings of Guilt</b>							
	Yes	6	60.0	24	85.7	15	83.3
	No	4	40.0	4	14.3	3	16.7
	<b>Total</b>	10	100.0	28	100.0	18	100

Table 5.22 (cont'd)

Charge Types	One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Administration of Justice Charges</b>						
Yes	9	21.4	39	95.1	19	95.0
No	33	78.6	2	4.9	1	5.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Findings of Guilt</b>						
Yes	7	77.8	37	94.9	19	100.0
No	2	22.2	2	5.1	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	9	100.0	39	100.0	19	100.0

Source of data: Justice Online Information Network.

<sup>1</sup> Examples of other include: *Traffic Safety Act* offences, and weapons offences, etc.

Results varied somewhat for drug-related and other crimes. Significantly fewer youth had drug charges on their record, with only 16.7% of One-time offenders, 24.4% of Chronic offenders, and just over half of the SHOs (55%) having at least one drug-related charge. Findings of guilt for drug-related charges were slightly lower than for property and person charges, with 71.4% of One-time offenders, 80% of Chronic offenders, and 72.7% of SHOs with drug-related charges having at least one finding of guilt. With regard to other crimes, less than one-quarter of One-time offenders (23.8%) had at least one charge on their record, with 60% of those youth having at least one finding of guilt. On the other hand, 90% of SHOs had other crime charges, with 83.3% of them having at least one finding of guilt. Just over two-thirds of Chronic offenders (68.3%) had at least one other crime charge, with 85.7% having a finding of guilt.

A substantial disparity existed amongst the groups with regard to administration of justice charges. Where only 21.4% of One-time offenders had at least one administration of justice charge (with 77.8% having an administration of justice finding of guilt), nearly all of the Chronic offenders (95.1%) and SHOs (95%) had an administration of justice charge. Of these Chronic and SHO youth, 94.9% and 100%, respectively, had an administration of justice finding of guilt.

Table 5.23 provides detailed information regarding the number of charges and findings of guilt for each offence type. Among the youth with person crime charges on their record, Chronic offenders and SHOs averaged 5.1 and 6.7 person crime charges, respectively, with One-time offenders showing significantly fewer (1.5). Where One-time offenders averaged only 1.0 finding of guilt for person crime charges, the average number for Chronic offender and SHOs was slightly higher (3.4 and 3.8, respectively). One-time offenders demonstrated a significantly higher number of property crimes than crimes against the person on their record, averaging 6.3 charges but only 2.7 findings of guilt; however, one of these youth had 65 minor property crime charges from one spree. Chronic offenders had slightly more property crimes on record, averaging 8.1 charges, but more findings of guilt (6.2) than One-time offenders. SHOs averaged 12.5 property crime charges and 9.7 findings of guilt on their records.

**Table 5.23**

**Average Number of Charges and Findings of Guilt for Offence Types, by Study Group**

Type of Charge	One-time Offenders	Chronic Offenders	SHOs
<b>Number of Person Crime Charges</b>			
Mean	1.5	5.1	6.7
Range	1-3	1-13	1-18
n	21	37	19
<b>Findings of Guilt</b>			
Mean	1.0	3.4	3.8
Range	1-1	1-12	1-9
n	18	34	19
<b>Number of Property Crime Charges</b>			
Mean	6.3	8.1	12.5
Range	1-65	1-25	1-35
n	20	41	20
<b>Findings of Guilt</b>			
Mean	2.7	6.2	9.7
Range	1-13	1-16	1-28
n	16	41	19
<b>Number of Drug-related Charges</b>			
Mean	1.1	1.4	2.2
Range	1-2	1-2	1-9
n	7	10	11
<b>Findings of Guilt</b>			
Mean	1.0	1.1	2.0
Range	1-1	1-2	1-6
n	5	8	8
<b>Number of Other Charges<sup>1</sup></b>			
Mean	1.7	2.9	4.9
Range	1-6	1-7	1-11
n	10	28	18
<b>Findings of Guilt</b>			
Mean	1.5	1.7	2.1
Range	1-3	1-5	1-5
n	6	24	15
<b>Number of Administration of Justice Charges</b>			
Mean	2.2	14.5	21.1
Range	1-5	1-38	3-47
n	9	39	19
<b>Findings of Guilt</b>			
Mean	2.0	9.5	12.7
Range	1-4	1-27	2-28
n	7	37	19

Source of data: Justice Online Information Network.

<sup>1</sup> Examples of other include: *Traffic Safety Act* offences, and weapons offences, etc.

The average number of drug-related charges and findings of guilt was quite low across all groups, with One-time and Chronic offenders averaging roughly one charge and one finding of guilt, and SHOs having an average of 2.2 charges and 2.0 drug-related findings of guilt. With regard to other offences, again, SHOs averaged the highest number of charges (4.9) and findings of guilt (2.1), with One-time offenders averaging only 1.7 charges and 1.5 findings of guilt. Chronic offenders fell in between these groups.

To demonstrate the rate of conviction for each offence type, Table 5.24 shows the average proportion of charges with findings of guilt. For person and drug crimes, a roughly similar rate of convictions is demonstrated across all groups, with roughly two-thirds of charges in each category having findings of guilt. Slightly more disparate results are shown for conviction of property crimes. Where 49.6% of One-time offenders' property crime charges had findings of guilt, 70.2% of the SHOs' charges and 76.3% of the Chronic offenders' property crime charges had findings of guilt. With regard to other crime charges, half of the One-time and Chronic offenders' charges had guilty findings; however, only 35.3% of other charges for SHOs were resolved with a finding of guilt. Administration of justice charges show a roughly similar rate of convictions across groups, at just over half (62.6% for One-time offenders; 59.7% for Chronic offenders; and 61.7% for SHOs).

**Table 5.24**  
**Proportion of Charges with Findings of Guilt**  
**for Offence Types, by Study Group**

Offence Types	One-time Offenders	Chronic Offenders	SHOs
<b>Person Crime (%)</b>			
Mean	65.1	66.2	64.5
n	21	37	19
<b>Property Crime (%)</b>			
Mean	49.6	76.3	70.2
n	20	41	20
<b>Drug-related Crime (%)</b>			
Mean	64.3	65.0	67.9
n	7	10	11
<b>Other Crime<sup>1</sup> (%)</b>			
Mean	50.0	49.1	35.3
n	10	28	18
<b>Administration of Justice Crime (%)</b>			
Mean	62.6	59.7	61.7
n	9	39	19

Source of data: Justice Online Information Network.

<sup>1</sup> Examples of other include: *Traffic Safety Act* offences, and weapons offences, etc.

## Sentencing

Sentencing was examined according to types of sentences on the youths' records, the average frequency of each sentence type, and finally, the average length of sentences. Table 5.25 demonstrates whether a particular sentence type had been issued at least once for each study group. With regard to probation sentences, roughly two-thirds (69%) of One-time offenders had received a probation sentence, contrasted with 95.1% of Chronic offenders and 100% of SHOs. Somewhat surprisingly, only 23.8% of One-time offenders had received a sentence of community service, compared to nearly two-thirds of Chronic offenders and SHOs (63.4% and 60%, respectively). Attendance orders were most commonly sentenced for Chronic offenders (26.8%), with only 15% of SHOs and 7.1% of One-time offenders having received this sentence.

Custody and supervision sentences were by far more common amongst SHOs and Chronic offenders. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of SHOs had received a secure custody and supervision sentence, with three-quarters having been sentenced at least once to open custody and supervision and 70% having been sentenced at least once to deferred custody. Chronic offenders were slightly less likely to have received these types of sentences, with just under half (43.9%) of the Chronic offenders having received at least one open custody and supervision sentence. Just over half of the Chronic offenders received deferred custody (51.2%) and/or secure custody and supervision (53.7%) on at least one occasion. Very few One-time offenders received open custody and supervision or deferred custody as a sentence (9.5% for open custody; 7.1% for deferred custody). As expected, this finding is similar for secure custody and supervision sentences, with only 7.1% of One-time offenders having received this sentence.

With regard to fine/restitution sentences, roughly half of the Chronic and SHO youth received a fine/restitution at least once (56.1% and 50%, respectively), with significantly fewer One-time offenders having been fined (16.7%). Although quite uncommon across all groups, intensive support was most commonly used for Chronic offenders; however, only 9.8% of the youth in this group received it. Across groups, conditional discharges were most common for One-time offenders; again, however, only 16.7% received a conditional discharge.

Information regarding weapons prohibitions and serious violent offence designation was also found in sentencing records. Where only 14.3% of One-time offenders received a weapons prohibition, they appeared on sentencing records for 60% of SHOs and 34.1% of Chronic offenders' sentencing records. Where serious violent offence designations were not common, one One-time offender, two Chronic offenders, and one SHO had a serious violent offence on their record.

Table 5.25

Sentence Types on Record, by Study Group

Sentence Types	One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Probation</b>						
Yes	29	69.0	39	95.1	20	100.0
No	13	31.0	2	4.9	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Community Service</b>						
Yes	10	23.8	26	63.4	12	60.0
No	32	76.2	15	36.6	8	40.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Attendance Order</b>						
Yes	3	7.1	11	26.8	3	15.0
No	39	92.9	30	73.2	17	85.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Open Custody and Supervision</b>						
Yes	4	9.5	18	43.9	15	75.0
No	38	90.5	23	56.1	5	25.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Secure Custody and Supervision</b>						
Yes	3	7.1	22	53.7	13	65.0
No	39	92.9	19	46.3	7	35.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Deferred Custody</b>						
Yes	3	7.1	21	51.2	14	70.0
No	39	92.9	20	48.8	6	30.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Fine/Restitution</b>						
Yes	7	16.7	23	56.1	10	50.0
No	35	83.3	18	43.9	10	50.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Intensive Support</b>						
Yes	1	2.4	4	9.8	1	5.0
No	41	97.6	37	91.2	19	95.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Conditional Discharge</b>						
Yes	7	16.7	2	4.9	2	10.0
No	35	83.3	39	95.1	18	90.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0

Table 5.25 (cont'd)

Sentence Types	One-time Offenders		Chronic Offenders		SHOs	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Weapons Prohibition</b>						
Yes	6	14.3	14	34.1	12	60.0
No	36	85.7	27	65.9	8	40.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0
<b>Serious Violent Offences</b>						
Yes	1	2.4	2	4.9	1	5.0
No	41	97.6	39	95.1	19	95.0
<b>Total</b>	42	100.0	41	100.0	20	100.0

Source of data: Justice Online Information Network.

Table 5.26 sets out the average number of sentences for each sentence type, across groups. As expected, since One-time offenders are sentenced for only one substantive incident, they generally average only one occurrence of each sentence type (with the exception of secure custody, for which one youth received 3 different one-day secure custody sentences for administration of justice incidents). For the other groups, SHOs on average received slightly more probation sentences (3.3) than did Chronic offenders (2.3). As expected, this finding is similar for open custody and supervision and secure custody and supervision sentences. SHOs received an average of 2.6 open custody and supervision sentences (compared to 1.4 for Chronic offenders) and 4.2 secure custody and supervision sentences (compared to 2.1 for Chronic offenders). On average, SHOs and Chronic offenders received roughly similar numbers of community service (1.8 and 2.0, respectively) and deferred custody (1.4 and 1.3, respectively) sentences, with Chronic offenders receiving slightly more fine/restitution sentences (2.7 compared to 2.2 for SHOs) and attendance orders (1.4 compared to 1.0 for SHOs). The average number of intensive support sentences was consistent across all groups (1.0 each).

**Table 5.26**

**Average Number of Sentence Types, by Study Group**

<b>Sentence Type</b>	<b>One-time Offenders</b>	<b>Chronic Offenders</b>	<b>SHOs</b>
<b>Probation</b>			
Mean	1.0	2.3	3.3
Range	1-1	1-5	1-8
n	29	39	20
<b>Community Service</b>			
Mean	1.0	2.0	1.8
Range	1-1	1-6	1-3
n	10	26	12
<b>Attendance Order</b>			
Mean	1.0	1.4	1.0
Range	1-1	1-4	1-1
n	3	11	3
<b>Open Custody and Supervision</b>			
Mean	1.0	1.4	2.6
Range	1-1	1-3	1-6
n	4	18	15
<b>Secure Custody and Supervision</b>			
Mean	1.3	2.1	4.2
Range	1-2	1-6	2-8
n	3	22	13
<b>Deferred Custody</b>			
Mean	1.0	1.3	1.4
Range	1-1	1-4	1-3
n	3	21	14
<b>Fine/Restitution</b>			
Mean	1.0	2.7	2.2
Range	1-1	1-15	1-6
n	7	23	10
<b>Intensive Support Sentences</b>			
Mean	1.0	1.0	1.0
Range	1-1	1-1	1-1
n	1	4	1

Source of data: Justice Online Information Network.

Sentence length was also compared across groups (Table 5.27). Among those youth who received probation sentences, the average length was similar for each study group – 10.9 months for One-time offenders, 10.5 months for Chronic offenders, and 11.2 months for SHOs. On average, One-time offenders were sentenced to the most community service hours (40.5), with Chronic and SHO youth being sentenced to a roughly similar number of hours (28.8 and 27, respectively). The length of attendance orders was substantially higher for SHOs, who averaged 90 hours; however, only three youth received this sentence, the length ranging from 30-140 hours.

**Table 5.27**

**Average Magnitude of Sentences, by Study Group**

<b>Sentence Type</b>	<b>One-time Offenders</b>	<b>Chronic Offenders</b>	<b>SHOs</b>
<b>Probation (months)</b>			
Mean	10.9	10.5	11.2
Range	4-18	4-18	5-24
n	29	39	20
<b>Community Service (hours)</b>			
Mean	40.5	28.8	27.0
Range	15-125	10-100	10-45
n	10	26	12
<b>Attendance Order (hours)</b>			
Mean	26.7	33.3	90.0
Range	20-30	10-75	30-140
n	3	11	3
<b>Open Custody and Supervision (days)</b>			
Mean	157.5	204.3	161.4
Range	90-180	15-730	21-540
n	4	18	15
<b>Secure Custody and Supervision (days)</b>			
Mean	854.0 <sup>1</sup>	113.5	226.9
Range	1-2,555	1-865	14-660
n	3	22	13
<b>Deferred Custody (days)</b>			
Mean	122.3	133.1	133.8
Range	7-180	20-180	25-180
n	3	21	14
<b>Fine/Restitution (dollars)</b>			
Mean	876.4	227.3	224.2
Range	40-3,000	1-1,000	20-638
n	7	23	10
<b>Intensive Support (months)</b>			
Mean	18.0	15.0	8.0
Range	18-18	6-24	8-8
n	1	4	1

Source of data: Justice Online Information Network.

<sup>1</sup> One of the three youth in this group received a 2,555 day secure custody and supervision sentence, whereas the other two received sentences of one and six days. Therefore, the mean is seriously affected by the outlier.

The data show that Chronic offenders had the highest average length of open custody and supervision time – at 204.3 days. SHOs and One-time offenders were comparable in the average length of their open custody and supervision sentences (161.4 days and 157.5 days, respectively). However, only four One-time offenders were sentenced to open custody and supervision, the lengths of which ranged from 90 to 180

days - this compared to 15 SHOs, whose open custody and supervision sentences ranged from 21 to 540 days.

With regard to secure custody and supervision, One-time offenders showed the highest average sentence length at 854.0 days. However, one of the three One-time offenders who were sentenced to secure custody and supervision received 2,555 days for a serious charge, the only one on their record. More common among SHOs and Chronic offenders, secure custody and supervision sentences ranged from 1 to 865 days for Chronic offenders and 14 to 660 days for SHOs. SHOs, however, averaged significantly longer secure custody and supervision sentences than Chronic offenders - 226.9 days compared to 113.5 days, respectively.

Deferred custody sentence lengths were roughly the same for SHOs (133.8 days) and Chronic offenders (133.1 days) and were slightly higher than the average length of deferred custody sentences for One-time offenders (122.3 days).

Fine/restitution sentences average significantly higher dollar amounts for One-time offenders, at \$867.40, than for Chronic offenders and SHOs (\$227.30 and \$224.20, respectively). Although few intensive support orders were given in this sample, the average length for the One-time offenders was 18 months, followed by 15 months for the Chronic offenders and 8 months for the SHOs.

## 6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The first part of this chapter presents a summary of the major findings of the study. Highlights of the findings from Chapters 3.0 and 4.0 are presented by characteristic. Highlights of the findings from Chapter 5.0 are presented by study group, thus creating separate profiles for each of the four study groups. The second part of this chapter presents conclusions and discussion of the findings from the study.

### 6.1 Summaries

#### 6.1.1 Characteristics of Youth Crime in Calgary in 2006

Characteristics of all chargeable incidents (N=5,961) involving youth aged 12 through 17 in Calgary during a one-year period from January 1 – December 31, 2006 were examined. Highlights of the findings from this analysis are presented below.

- Almost three-quarters of the incidents involved males.
- The largest proportion of youth involved in chargeable incidents were 16 years old, followed closely by youth who were 17 and 15.
- Co-offenders were not involved in the majority of incidents.
- Over one-half of the incidents involved property crimes; fewer than one-fifth of the incidents were crimes against the persons.
- Females were more likely to be involved in property-related crimes than were males, and males were more likely to be involved in person crimes than were females.
- Charges were laid in almost two-thirds of incidents.
- For incidents in which charges were not laid, the most common reason was the youth received extrajudicial measures under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
- Males were more likely to be charged than females, and older youth were more likely to be charged than younger youth.
- More incidents took place during the first half of the year and on weekdays.
- More incidents took place during the school day or after school than other time periods.
- Very few of the incidents involved the use of a weapon.

## SHO/Non-SHO Comparisons

- Even though SHOs only represented a small proportion of the total number of youth involved in criminal activity, they were involved in a disproportionate number of incidents.
- Only 5.9% of the incidents involved youth who had been designated by police as SHOs.
- SHOs were involved in an average of 8.4 incidents, while non-SHOs were involved in an average of 1.6 incidents.
- SHOs had a higher average number of incidents in which charges were laid than did non-SHOs.
- Both SHOs and non-SHOs were more likely to be involved in property crimes; however, non-SHOs accounted for a higher proportion of crimes against the person than did SHOs.
- Both SHOs and non-SHOs were unlikely to be involved in incidents where weapons were present.
- SHOs had a substantially higher average number of incidents in which co-offenders were involved than did non-SHOs.

### 6.1.2 Historical Comparison of SHOs and Non-SHOs in Calgary

A historical dataset was constructed comprised of the 42 SHOs contained in the PIMS database during the period January 1 – December 31, 2006 and a stratified random sample of 42 non-SHOs from the same database. The non-SHOs were matched to the SHOs on gender and year of birth. The historical dataset contained all chargeable incidents involving the 84 youth during a seven-year period from 2000 to 2006. Highlights of the findings from the analysis of this dataset are presented below.

- The 42 SHOs were involved in 1,402 incidents during this period (average of 33.4 incidents per youth), while the non-SHOs were involved in 196 incidents (average of 4.7 incidents per youth).
- The majority of individuals in both groups were male, and were born in 1988 or 1989.
- SHOs had an earlier onset of criminal behaviour than non-SHOs, and this behaviour escalated at a substantially higher rate for SHOs.

- SHO criminal involvement increased steadily through age 14 and then decreased through each subsequent year, while the number of incidents involving non-SHOs increased for each age group up to 16 years, and then decreased slightly. However, the number of incidents involving SHOs was consistently higher for each age group than for non-SHOs.
- This same pattern was observed for all types of crime: property; person; and other (e.g., drugs, traffic, other *Criminal Code*).
- For both SHOs and non-SHOs, the substantial majority of incidents did not involve weapons.
- At the younger age groups from 12 through 15 years, SHOs were more likely to be charged than non-SHOs. However, for the older age groups, the non-SHOs were considerably more likely to be charged than the SHOs.
- In terms of reasons for charges not being laid, SHOs were considerably more likely than non-SHOs to receive young persons measures under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

### 6.1.3 Youth Offending Profiles

In order to create a profile of young offenders in Calgary, four groups of youth with varying contact with the youth criminal justice system were identified. These groups were: Gateway clients (youth diverted into an extrajudicial measures program); One-time offenders (youth having one substantive offence for which they had been found guilty); Chronic offenders (youth having five or more substantive offences for which they had been found guilty); and Serious Habitual Offenders (SHOs) (youth identified by the Calgary Police Service as at-risk of a career of crime).

In-depth interviews were conducted with 123 youth falling into these study groups. In addition, their probation files were reviewed and their history of contact with the criminal justice system was examined using Alberta Justice's Justice Online Information Network (JOIN). (These latter two data sources were not available for Gateway clients.) The results of these reviews are presented below by study group.

#### Gateway Clients

- There were slightly more females in the Gateway group than males, and the average age was 15.6 years.
- Almost all Gateway clients were Caucasian and were born in Canada.
- Over one-half of the respondents reported that their parents were currently married, and almost one-third said that their parents were separated or divorced.
- One-half of the Gateway clients were currently living with both parents, and one-half were living with one parent.

- Almost all of the youth reported that both their parents were currently employed.
- One-fifth of Gateway clients had run away from home at some point in their lives.
- Very few of the Gateway youth had had any involvement with the child welfare system.
- All of the Gateway clients were currently attending school. One-half reported skipping classes, while two-fifths stated that they had been suspended and one-third considered dropping out.
- Almost one-half of the youth reported being bullied at school, while almost three-fifths said that they had been in fights at school.
- Only one Gateway client reported that they had ever taken a weapon to school.
- Almost all of the youth met their friends at school. Three-quarters had friends the same age as themselves, and almost all said that their parents approve of their friends.
- The majority of Gateway clients reporting regularly engaging in leisure activities with their parents, as well as participating in organized after-school activities and adult-coached sports.
- The vast majority of these youth reported feeling safe both at home at night and in their community after dark. Youth also reported feeling safe while waiting for or riding the bus or LRT alone after dark.
- Very few Gateway clients had ever carried or used a weapon in the community. Of those who did, the most common weapons were knives or other weapons (e.g., clubs, homemade weapons, pellet/BB guns).
- Three-quarters of the respondents reported having 5 or more drinks on one occasion, and 60% reported using illegal drugs. The most common illegal drugs used were marijuana, mushrooms, and ecstasy.
- Approximately one-third of the Gateway clients had bought or sold illegal drugs at some point in their lives.
- One-third of the youth reported that they had damaged or destroyed someone else's property, and only one youth reported that they had broken into a house.
- Over four-fifths of the Gateway respondents reported that they had ever stolen something, and over one-half reported that they had stolen something with a group of friends.

- None of the Gateway clients reported taking or trying to take something by force or threat of force. However, over one-half had harassed, threatened or bullied someone; of these, only one had threatened someone with a weapon.
- One-quarter of the youth reported that they had assaulted or hurt someone, and almost one-half had fought others with a group of friends.
- Only three Gateway clients reported that a gang had tried to recruit them. Only two said that they had ever been a member of a gang, and only one was currently a gang member.

### One-time Offenders

- Over four-fifths of the One-time offenders were male and their average age was 16.4 years.
- Almost three-quarters of the One-time offenders were Caucasian and almost all were born in Canada.
- One-third of the One-time respondents indicated that their parents were currently married, while two-fifths stated that their parents were either separated or divorced.
- One-third of these youth said that they lived with both parents, and almost one-half lived with one parent.
- Three-quarters of the One-time offenders said that both of their parents were employed.
- One-half of these youth had run away from home at some point in their lives.
- Almost one-half of the One-time offenders had a history of family violence as indicated in their probation files.
- Over one-third of these respondents reported having contact with child welfare services at some point. Less than one-fifth of the youth had ever been in foster care, while one-quarter had been in a group home.
- Over one-quarter of the One-time offenders had a psychological assessment conducted on them, and over two-thirds had received counselling.
- Two-thirds of the One-time offenders said that they were currently attending school. Three-fifths reported skipping classes, and over four-fifths had been suspended. Over one-half said they considered dropping out of school at some point.
- Over one-half of the youth had been bullied at school, and four-fifths had been in fights at school.

- One-third of these respondents said they took a weapon to school and, of these, one-fifth said that they had used it. The most common weapon taken to school was a knife.
- Over three-quarters of the One-time offenders met their friends at school. One-half had friends the same age as themselves, and one-quarter said their friends were mostly older. One-half said that their parents approve of their friends, while one-quarter said their parents do not approve of their friends.
- Almost one-half of the One-time offenders never engaged in leisure activities with their parents, and few engaged in organized activities with adult leadership.
- The majority of these youth reported feeling safe both at home at night and in their community after dark. Youth also reported feeling safe while waiting for or riding the bus or LRT alone after dark.
- One-third of One-time offenders had carried a weapon in their community and, of these, almost one-half had used it. The most common weapon type was other weapons such as clubs, homemade weapons, and pellet/BB guns.
- Almost all respondents reported having 5 or more drinks on one occasion, and over four-fifths reported using illegal drugs. The most common illegal drugs used were marijuana, ecstasy, and mushrooms.
- Almost three-quarters of these One-time offenders had bought illegal drugs at some point in their lives, and almost one-half had sold illegal drugs.
- Over four-fifths of these respondents reported that they had ever stolen something, and two-thirds reported that they had stolen something with a group of friends.
- One-third of the One-time offenders reported taking or trying to take something by force or threat of force. Over four-fifths had harassed, threatened or bullied someone; of these, almost half had threatened someone with a weapon.
- Four-fifths of these youth reported that they had assaulted or hurt someone; of these, almost half had done this with a weapon. Two-thirds of the One-time offenders had fought others with a group of friends.
- One-third of the One-time offenders reported that a gang had tried to recruit them. Less than one-fifth said that they had ever been a member of a gang, and only one was currently a gang member.
- One-time offenders had an average of 1.9 criminal incidents, and an average of 1.3 findings of guilt.

- One-third of the One-time offenders were involved in incidents with co-accused, and of these incidents, there was an average of 1.8 co-accused.
- Over one-third of the youth in this group were involved in incidents where extrajudicial measures were used. Extrajudicial measures were used most often for property crimes, and in almost all cases they were successful.
- One-half of One-time offenders were charged with a crime against the person, almost one-half were charged with a property crime, less than one-fifth had a drug charge, and one-fifth had an administration of justice charge. In all cases, the majority of charges resulted in a finding of guilt.
- On average, youth in this group had the highest number of charges for property crimes, followed by administration of justice offences.
- One-time offenders were more likely to be found guilty for person, drug-related, and administration of justice crimes than other types of offences.
- The most common types of sentences received by One-time offenders were probation, followed by community service, fine, and conditional discharge.

### Chronic Offenders

- Almost all Chronic offenders were male and their average age was 16.8.
- Over four-fifths were Caucasian and almost all were born in Canada.
- Fewer than one-fifth of the respondents stated that their parents were currently married, while over one-third indicated that their parents were separated or divorced, and a further one-third said their parents were never married.
- Just over one-tenth of the youth reported they were living with both parents, while over one-third said they were living with one parent. Almost 20% were living in a foster/group home, and over 20% were incarcerated at the time of the interview.
- Two-thirds of the Chronic offenders indicated that their mother was currently employed, and just over one-half indicated that their father was currently employed.
- Over four-fifths of the respondents had run away from home at some point in their lives.
- Almost three-quarters of the Chronic offenders had a history of family violence as indicated in their probation files.
- Over four-fifths of the youth reported having contact with child welfare services. Over one-third had been in foster care, and over 70% had been in a group home.

- Almost two-thirds of the Chronic offenders had a psychological assessment conducted on them, and all of them had received counselling.
- Two-thirds of these respondents said that they were currently attending school. Three-quarters reported skipping classes, and four-fifths had been suspended. Two-thirds said they considered dropping out of school at some point.
- Over one-third of these youth had been bullied at school, and almost all had been in fights at school.
- Almost half of the Chronic offenders said they took a weapon to school and, of these, one-fifth said that they had used it. The most common weapon taken to school was a knife.
- Three-fifths of the Chronic offenders met their friends at school, while one-fifth met them on the street, and one-tenth met them in jail. Three-fifths had friends the same age as themselves, and almost one-quarter said that their friends were mostly older. Less than one-third said that their parents approve of their friends, while two-fifths said their parents do not approve of their friends.
- Over one-half of the Chronic offenders never engaged in leisure activities with their parents, and few engaged in organized activities with adult leadership.
- The vast majority of these youth reported feeling safe both at home at night and in their community after dark. Youth also reported feeling safe while waiting for or riding the bus or LRT alone after dark.
- Over one-half of the Chronic offenders had carried a weapon in their community and, of these, almost three-fifths had used it. The most common weapon type was a knife.
- All of these respondents reported having 5 or more drinks on one occasion, and all had used illegal drugs. The most common illegal drugs used were marijuana, ecstasy, and mushrooms.
- Almost all of the Chronic offenders had bought illegal drugs at some point in their lives, and over two-thirds had sold illegal drugs.
- All of these respondents reported that they had ever stolen something, and almost three-quarters reported that they had stolen something with a group of friends.
- Three-fifths of the Chronic offenders reported taking or trying to take something by force or threat of force. Four-fifths had harassed, threatened or bullied someone; of these, three-fifths had threatened someone with a weapon.

- Almost all of the youth reported that they had assaulted or hurt someone; of these, 60% had done this with a weapon. Two-thirds had fought others with a group of friends.
- Three-fifths of the Chronic offenders reported that a gang had tried to recruit them. Over one-half said that they had ever been a member of a gang, and almost one-quarter were currently gang members.
- Chronic offenders had an average of 19 criminal incidents, and an average of 14.6 findings of guilt.
- Almost three-quarters of the Chronic offenders were involved in incidents with co-accused, and of these incidents, there was an average of 1.4 co-accused.
- Over one-half of the youth in this group were involved in incidents where extrajudicial measures were used. Extrajudicial measures were used most often for property crimes, and in 75% of cases they were successful.
- Over 90% of the Chronic offenders were charged with at least one crime against the person, all were charged with a property crime, one-quarter had a drug charge, and almost all had an administration of justice charge. In all cases, the majority of charges resulted in a finding of guilt.
- On average, youth in this group had the highest number of charges for administration of justice offences, followed by property crimes.
- Chronic offenders were more likely to be found guilty for property, person, and drug-related crimes than other types of offences.
- The most common types of sentences received by Chronic offenders were probation, followed by community service, fine, and secure custody and supervision.
- On average, Chronic offenders received more fines/restitution, probation, and secure custody and supervision than other sentence types.

### SHOs

- All of the SHOs were male and their average age was 17 years.
- One-half of the SHOs were Caucasian and almost one-third were Native. Almost all of the SHOs were born in Canada.
- One-quarter of SHOs said that their parents were currently married, another quarter said they were separated or divorced, and one-third said their parents were never married.

- One-quarter of these respondents said they lived with both parents, while over one-half said they lived with one parent. Three SHOs were incarcerated at the time of the interview.
- Just over one-half of the SHOs stated that their mother was currently employed, and almost 90% indicated that their father was currently employed.
- Four-fifths of the SHOs had run away from home at some point in their lives.
- Almost 70% of these youth had a history of family violence as indicated in their probation files.
- Three-quarters of these respondents reported having contact with child welfare services. One-half had been in foster care, and two-thirds had been in a group home.
- Three-quarters of the SHOs had a psychological assessment conducted on them, and the vast majority had received counselling.
- Almost half of the youth in this group said that they were currently attending school. Over three-quarters had skipped classes, and almost 90% had been suspended. Almost four-fifths said they considered dropping out of school at some point.
- Less than one-third of the SHOs had been bullied at school, and all of the respondents had been in fights at school.
- Three-quarters of the SHOs said they took a weapon to school and, of these, almost one-quarter said that they had used it. The most common weapon taken to school was a knife.
- Less than one-half of the SHOs met their friends at school, while almost one-third said that they met them in jail. Almost half of these respondents said that their friends were older, and 40% said they were the same age. Only one-quarter said their parents approve of their friends, while two-fifths said their parents do not approve of their friends.
- Over half of the SHOs never engaged in leisure activities with their parents, and almost none engaged in organized activities with adult leadership.
- Almost all of the youth reported feeling safe both at home at night and in their community after dark. Youth also reported feeling safe while waiting for or riding the bus or LRT alone after dark.
- Over one-half of the SHOs had carried a weapon in their community and, of these, three-fifths had used it. The most common weapon type was a knife.

- All of these respondents reported having 5 or more drinks on one occasion, and all had used illegal drugs. The most common illegal drugs used were marijuana, ecstasy, and mushrooms.
- Almost all of the SHOs had bought illegal drugs at some point in their lives, and over two-thirds had sold illegal drugs.
- Almost all of these respondents reported that they had ever stolen something, and almost all reported that they had stolen something with a group of friends.
- Almost three-quarters of the SHOs reported taking or trying to take something by force or threat of force. The vast majority had harassed, threatened or bullied someone; of these, over four-fifths had threatened someone with a weapon.
- All of the youth in this study group reported that they had assaulted or hurt someone, and 90% of these had done this with a weapon. Three-quarters had fought others with a group of friends.
- Two-thirds of the SHOs reported that a gang had tried to recruit them. Over one-half said that they had ever been a member of a gang, and almost one-third were currently gang members.
- SHOs had an average of 27 criminal incidents, and an average of 20.7 findings of guilt.
- Four-fifths of the SHOs were involved in incidents with co-accused, and of these incidents, there was an average of 1.2 co-accused.
- Over one-half of the youth in this group were involved in incidents where extrajudicial measures were used. Extrajudicial measures were used most often for property crimes, and in four-fifths of cases they were successful.
- Almost all of the SHOs were charged with at least one crime against the person, all were charged with a property crime, over one-half had a drug charge, and almost all had an administration of justice charge. In all cases, the majority of charges resulted in a finding of guilt.
- On average, youth in this group had the highest number of charges for administration of justice offences, followed by property crimes.
- Chronic offenders were more likely to be found guilty for property, drug-related, and person crimes than other types of offences.
- The most common types of sentences received by SHOs were probation, followed by open custody and supervision, and deferred custody.
- On average, SHOs received more secure custody and supervision and probation sentences than other sentence types.

## 6.2 Discussion and Conclusions

The objective of the first year of this three-year study of youth offending in Calgary was to establish the foundation of a model to predict why some youth become more seriously involved in crime than others. Three major questions directed the research:

1. What are the contemporary trends of youth crime in Calgary?
2. How do the criminal histories of Serious Habitual Offenders (SHOs) differ from those of non-SHOs?
3. What characteristics (i.e., demographic, familial, educational, community, interpersonal) and experiences (i.e., delinquency, gang involvement) differentiate youth with various levels of involvement with the law?

To answer these questions, two major strategies were adopted: (1) an aggregate examination of the characteristics of youth crime in Calgary and the criminal histories of SHOs compared to non-SHOs; and (2) an in-depth examination of a cohort of youth who ranged from having minimal criminal involvement (i.e., Gateway clients) to serious criminal involvement (i.e., SHOs). These strategies yielded a rich source of data, both reinforcing and adding to past findings regarding the criminal involvement of youth.

Some qualifying statements are worthy of mention. First, for the cohort of youth who were interviewed, comparisons based on age and gender were not possible given relatively low numbers in each strata – particularly for females. Second, given the high rate of incarceration for SHOs and Chronic offenders and that some were interviewed in CYOC, self-reported delinquency, particularly for the past year, may be underrepresented. They simply were not able to engage in these acts because they were in custody. Third, given the method by which Gateway youth were recruited for the study, their crime, by definition, occurred within the past year. Therefore, their self-reported delinquency for the past year may be inflated. Overall, by definition, youths' membership in each of the groups influences the findings. For example, One-time offenders will have only one finding of guilt on their record, and are generally sentenced only once. Similarly, given the criteria used to designate a youth as a SHO (discussed in Chapter 2.0), these youth will be more likely to have a history of delinquency and violent behaviour, extensive criminal records, exposure to family violence, a lack parental/social support and supervision, substance abuse and/or psychological difficulties, negative peer associations, etc. Finally, because the offender profiles were generated from bivariate analysis, no causal inferences were made in this report. The profiles simply describe the characteristics of the youth in each group on a number of different factors.

### 6.2.1 Discussion

#### Crime and Delinquency Among Calgary's Youth Offenders

In general, the characteristics of youth crime in Calgary matched common demographic patterns among youth offenders in the reported literature. Most youth offences in Calgary in 2006 were committed by males of approximately 16 years of age. Property offences were the most common. Male youth were more likely to be involved in crimes against the person than females, who were most commonly involved in property crimes. The aggregate analysis demonstrated that males were more often charged for their offences, which is reinforced in part by the fact that a substantial proportion of the female youth interviewed belonged to the Gateway group – having been diverted away from being charged to an extrajudicial measures program.

Other studies (e.g., Smith et al., 1995; Graham & Bowling, 1995) have demonstrated that although SHOs compose only a small proportion of all youth offenders, they are responsible for a disproportionately high proportion of youth crime. Not only did the aggregate analysis from the current study reveal a similar pattern, the JOIN information for the study cohort revealed that, on average, SHOs are involved in substantially more criminal incidents than non-SHOs, also having a higher average number of incidents where charges were laid. Our findings also suggest that the criminal involvement for serious youth offenders escalates at an early age. Although self-report data indicated that youths' first contact with police was at roughly the same age across all groups, PIMS data demonstrated that SHOs had an earlier onset of recorded criminal contact than non-SHOs, and were more likely to be charged at younger ages. Further, this behaviour escalated at a substantially higher rate, peaking at age 14 (compared to age 16 for non-SHOs) before gradually decreasing in subsequent years. Thus, although most youth might have their first contacts with police at roughly the same age, more official measures were taken with the youth who would eventually become SHOs. Possible explanations for this could be the greater level of seriousness or frequency of their behaviour, or the possibility that these youth were in higher risk situations (i.e., run-aways, drug users, etc.). The significance of age 14 as the peak for SHOs criminal activity is similar to the findings from an earlier Calgary school-based study, which demonstrated that youths' self-reported delinquency peaks in Grade 9 (Paetsch & Bertrand, 1999). Criminal behaviour for non-SHOs, on the other hand, peaked at age 16, then decreased slightly.

While one might theorize that the tendency to charge SHOs at younger ages may be due to extrajudicial measures not being used, the findings from this study suggest otherwise: the use of extrajudicial measures (EJMs) is surprisingly more common for more serious offenders. Both the aggregate and JOIN data indicated that SHOs were more likely than non-SHOs to receive EJMs, with SHOs and Chronic offenders being more likely to receive EJMs for more than one incident. The reason for this is not certain, but may be explained by the fact that, given many SHOs and Chronic offenders have extensive contact with the criminal justice system, EJMs may offer solutions that have not yet been tried through traditional sanctions. Although the rate of successful completion of EJMs was high amongst all groups, it is clear that their effect is not lasting for some youth.

The early escalation of criminal behaviour among more serious offenders is accompanied by an escalation of the seriousness of their offences. Although both the aggregate and individual data demonstrated that property offences were clearly the most prominent amongst all groups, more seriously involved youth have a greater likelihood of having been charged with more crimes against the person, and at younger ages. Self-reported delinquency indicates that Chronic offenders and SHOs are more likely to threaten/use force or a weapon in their crimes. While charge data for Gateway clients were not available (by definition), self-reported delinquency indicates that they were more likely to be involved in minor theft, and to a slightly lesser extent, harassment.

Although charge data across groups do not indicate that drug-related crimes are among the most common offences, self-report data paints quite a different picture of drug involvement among the youth offender cohort. A majority of youth in all groups reported having used illegal drugs, ranging from just over half of the Gateway clients to all of the Chronic offenders and SHOs. Marijuana, ecstasy, and mushrooms were the most commonly used among all youth who had used drugs, and nearly all reported having used marijuana in particular in the past year. More criminally involved youth tended to report use of harder drugs, particularly crack and cocaine. Although a substantial proportion of SHOs reported using these drugs, their reported use in the past year dropped off significantly – whether it be due to their being incarcerated, or due to their involvement in SHOP and the possibility that they had been connected with addictions resources. Chronic offenders, however, were slightly more likely to report hard drug use in the past year, indicating the possibility that their drug use had not yet been addressed, or they simply hadn't engaged with the resources provided. Drug dealing was also common among more serious offenders, with a substantial majority having experience with both buying and selling drugs.

Based on the results from both the aggregate and cohort data analysis, weapons were not a significant issue in the reported crimes of Calgary's youth offenders. Although weapons were not being used in reported crimes to any great extent, and despite the fact that youth felt generally safe in their communities, youth were carrying weapons quite regularly. With the exception of Gateway clients, many respondents reported having taken a weapon to school or carrying one in the community, this tendency becoming greater for those more seriously involved in crime. Further, although not prominent in official records (i.e., PIMS, JOIN) self-report findings indicate that a substantial number of youth – particularly Chronic offenders and SHOs – have used weapons in the past.

### The Significance of Social Factors

Possible social explanations for why some youth become more seriously involved in crime than others were found in the interviews with youth. Clear disparities were discovered across social elements, beginning with noticeable differences regarding familial situations. Findings suggest that youth more seriously involved with crime tend to come from less stable family situations. More seriously involved offenders were more likely to come from single parent families, were considerably more likely to

have experienced family violence, and were more likely to live somewhere other than with parents at the time of the interview – whether it be in a foster or group home, with another relative, or in custody. SHOs were more likely to live with parents than Chronic offenders, perhaps an indicator of program efforts to ensure greater stability for these youth. Nearly all of the more persistent offenders had run away from home at least once, and very few engaged in social or leisure activities with their families. The relative lack of familial and home stability for youth in these groups was contrasted by the cohort of Gateway youth, half of whom came from families where parents are still married, and all of whom lived with at least one parent. These youth demonstrated stronger attachments to their families, being significantly less likely to run away and significantly more likely to engage in leisure activities with their parents.

Involvement with child welfare adds a very telling component to the family situations of youth offenders. Whereas the Gateway and One-time offenders reported relatively low levels of child welfare contact, a significant majority of Chronic offenders and SHOs had been involved with child welfare at one point in their lives, many having been placed in foster and/or group home care. Nearly half of the Chronic offenders reported that they were living in a group or foster home at the time of the interview. This high rate of involvement further demonstrates the high level of instability and lack of continuity in the family experiences of serious youth offenders.

Findings further suggested a disparity in peer associations. Interviews revealed that Gateway clients were most likely to meet their friends at school, have friends roughly the same age, and have their parents approve of their friends. Where Chronic offenders and SHOs were also meeting friends at school, substantial proportions reported having older friends and meeting their friends on the street or in jail. Self-reported delinquency indirectly supports the idea that more serious offenders associate with negative peers, being more likely to engage in delinquent acts with friends. For the most part, the parents of Chronic offenders and SHOs are more likely not to approve of their friends.

The tendency for more serious youth offenders to gravitate toward negative peers also finds support in levels of gang involvement. Where very few Gateway and One-time offenders reported recruitment by a gang, with only two reporting actual involvement, well over half of the Chronic offenders and SHOs had been recruited and/or been members of gangs. Whether involved or not, a large majority reported having friends that belonged to gangs. Although few youth reported current membership in a gang, only about half who were in gangs wanted to get out of them. As such, belonging to a gang plays an important social role to these youth, possibly related to the absence of a strong family presence.

The absence of positive adults and peers in the lives of persistent offenders (both Chronic offenders and SHOs) is further demonstrated in information regarding leisure activities. Where Gateway clients were significantly more likely to be involved in structured extra-curricular activities with adult leadership, this tendency drops off significantly even at the level of One-time offenders. A very small number of One-time offenders, Chronic offenders and SHOs reported involvement in sports, clubs, or other organizations in their free time, further demonstrating a lack of pro-social associations.

This lack of participation could be explained in part by a lack of familial resources, given that Chronic offenders and SHOs were less likely to have two employed parents.

More persistent offenders also tended to struggle with school. As expected, school participation was strongest for Gateway clients, all of whom were attending school. Where this could be explained by their being slightly younger than the rest of the groups, Gateway youth were significantly less likely than the other groups to consider dropping out of school. Investment in school amongst the groups decreased with greater criminal involvement, with a substantial proportion of SHOs, Chronic offenders, and even One-time offenders reporting that they skip and have considered dropping out. Although two-thirds of the Chronic offenders reported that they were attending school, this may be slightly overrepresentative given many were interviewed in CYOC and were required to attend school.

Information on school problems adds a telling component to the differences among groups with regard to school experiences. Bullying and fighting were definitely issues for the youth in the study, with many of the Gateway clients and One-time offenders reporting being bullied and getting into fights at school. Chronic offenders and SHOs were less likely to have been bullied, but all had gotten into fights at school. Nearly all of the One-time offenders, Chronic offenders and SHOs had been suspended in the past. Aggressive behaviour in school was further evidenced by self-reported delinquency, with a majority of youth in all groups having reported harassing, threatening or bullying people, and for more seriously involved youth, doing this with a weapon.

Interview information relating to investment in pro-social activities and participation in school finds connections to the aggregate analysis and some significant findings with regard to time. Examination of the frequency of chargeable incidents by month revealed that more crimes are committed by youth during the first half of the year, not the summer as one might expect. This could be explained by the possibility that, as the school year progresses, youth are less invested in it and more invested in other potentially more negative influences. As such, they skip more toward the end of the year (March-June), with some potentially dropping out entirely after their first semester. The possibility that crimes are committed while youth should be in school is reinforced by both the day and time of day when crimes are being committed. The data demonstrate that more youth offending occurs during the week, and during school or after school – not on the weekends or in the evenings as might be expected. As revealed by the interviews, youth offenders – particularly Chronic offenders and SHOs – are committing crimes during times when supervision is minimal. A lack of investment in school (i.e., skipping, dropping out) and participation in after-school activities may explain this pattern.

### Responses to Youth Offenders

Sentencing data reveal a certain amount of contrast between offending groups, particularly with regard to type and effectiveness. One-time offenders most commonly received community-based sentences (i.e., probation, community service). The presence of fewer administration of justice charges (i.e., breaches of community

sentences) suggests the relative success of community-based sentences for these groups, which could be explained by a greater amount of home and community stability. On the other hand, while Chronic offenders and SHOs also received a significant number of community-based sentences, the large number of administration of justice charges (i.e., breaches, failure to comply) for these groups indicates tremendous difficulty in fulfilling the conditions of these types of sentences, possibly due to a lack of stability in the community and/or a greater investment in criminal lifestyle. This, combined with their participation in more serious crimes, likely results in the tendency for more serious offenders (particularly SHOs) to receive custodial terms and more intensive community sentences.

It is clear that youth offenders, particularly those most involved in more serious or persistent offending, require a great deal of support. Results indicate that youth offenders are being connected with psychological services, with a substantial majority reporting that they had received counselling, particularly among SHOs and Chronic offenders. However, it is clear that intensive adult support and positive associations continue to be lacking for youth more seriously involved in crime.

### 6.2.2 Conclusions

The first year of CRILF's three-year study on youth offending has yielded a valuable starting point toward developing a model for predicting why some youth become more seriously involved in offending than others. Clearly, differences in social, individual, and offending characteristics exist among youth with varying levels of involvement with the law, and these factors all combine to affect a youth's ability to change their offending behaviour. It is difficult based on the current data to predict whether interventions with delinquent youth will successfully stop their criminal behaviour. Further, it is difficult to determine whether involvement in SHOP will be enough to help more criminally persistent youth stay away from a life of crime. However, the planned criminal record follow-ups with these youth at 12 and 24 months post-interview will aid in discovering which youth are able to avoid future involvement in crime, and the defining factors that assist them in doing so.

Given the richness of the data collected in Year 1 of the study, this project could only touch on the social background of the cohort of 123 youth who participated in the study. Provided this information, future initiatives may delve more deeply into some of the individual social factors that define the lives of these youth, and work towards developing more effective responses for youth.



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**APPENDIX A**  
**GATEWAY PARTICIPANTS PACKAGE**



To: The Parent/Guardian of «name»  
«address»  
Calgary, AB «Postal\_code»

I am writing to inform you of an exciting research project underway in Calgary, and to request your son/daughters' participation. The City of Calgary, supported by the Calgary Police Service and with special permission from the Alberta Solicitor General, is funding a project examining the criminal justice response to young people who get into trouble with the law. The study compares the experiences of a range of youth, from repeat offenders who have had extensive experience with the justice system, to youth who have participated in the Gateway program. Youth who have had experiences with Gateway are vital to this comparison, as they provide a promising example of how preventative measures are keeping youth out of the justice system.

The Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family (CRILF) has been contracted to conduct the study. If you agree to your son or daughter participating in this important study, researchers from CRILF will contact your child to set up a time to interview him or her by phone or in person. The interview is a private discussion with your child; the information is strictly **confidential and anonymous**. Participation is **completely voluntary** and your child is free to withdraw from the interview at any time. In the interview, the researcher will ask questions about your child's social life, family life, community, their contact with the Gateway program, and their general feelings about crime in Calgary. Interviews take approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

I would like to assure you that this project has received full ethics approval. As such, measures are in place to ensure that any information provided by your child will be subject to the strictest protection and confidentiality. Should your child agree to participate, he or she will receive \$20 by mail following the completed interview.

**IF YOU AGREE TO HAVE YOUR CHILD PARTICIPATE:**

Please complete the attached consent form and contact sheet and return it to CRILF in the business reply envelope provided or fax to CRILF at 289-4887. When the consent form is received, a researcher from CRILF will contact your home by phone to schedule a convenient time to interview your son/daughter.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Janice Bidyk, Gateway Coordinator  
206-8502, janice.bidyk@calgary.ca



CALGARY  
POLICE  
SERVICE



THE CITY OF  
**CALGARY**  
COMMUNITY &  
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

**A Study of Youth Offending in Calgary**

**CONTACT SHEET**

Name of parent or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact to schedule the interview:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return the contact sheet and the signed consent form to  
CRILF using the business reply envelope

OR

Fax both sheets to CRILF @ (403) 289-4887



## CANADIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR LAW AND THE FAMILY

One Executive Place, Suite 510, 1816 Crowchild Trail NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2M 3Y7  
Telephone: (403) 216-0340 Fax: (403) 289-4887 email: [crilf@ucalgary.ca](mailto:crilf@ucalgary.ca) [www.ucalgary.ca/~crilf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/~crilf)

### PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

Title of Project: <b>A Study of Youth Offending in Calgary</b>		
Principal Investigator: Dr. Joseph P. Hornick	Telephone Number(s): 216-0340	
	Yes	No
Do you understand that your child has been asked to be in a research study of youth offending in Calgary, and that by doing so will be participating in an interview regarding their experiences?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you read letter from Janice Bidyk explaining the study?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you understand that you can call Janice Bidyk if you have any questions or would like to discuss the study?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you understand that your child will be free to withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason and without affecting their future care?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you understand that the information your child provides will be kept strictly confidential and anonymous, and that only the researchers conducting the interviews will have access to your contact information?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you understand it will take approximately 30 - 45 minutes to complete the interview?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you aware that your child will not gain any privileges, receive any preferred treatment, or suffer any negative consequences as a result of their participation in this study?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I agree to take part in this study: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Signature of Research Subject's Parent: _____		
Printed Name: _____		
Date: _____		
Signature of Witness: _____		
Signature of Investigator or Designate: _____		

**A STUDY OF YOUTH OFFENDING IN CALGARY**  
**INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS**

The Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family (CRILF) is conducting a study of youth offending in Calgary for the City of Calgary. The purpose of this study is to determine if there are any differences between youth who have committed one offence compared to youth who have committed more than one offence. This information will be used to assist the City of Calgary in developing programs for youth who run into trouble with the law.

If you agree for your child to be involved with this study, he or she will be asked to participate in an interview that will be conducted by a member of the research project team. The interview will take approximately 45 minutes and will ask your child questions about them, their family, friends, activities, and offending history.

Your child's participation in this project is completely voluntary, and he or she is free to withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences. Also, if there are any questions that he or she prefers not to answer, they do not have to answer them. Their responses will be strictly confidential, and they will remain anonymous (that is, your child's answers will never be traced back to them). Nobody in the justice system (including the police) will ever see their responses. Consequently, there are no risks associated with participating in this project.

Your child's participation in this study will not affect their treatment by the police or anyone else in the justice system in any way, either positively or negatively. If you agree for your child to participate in this study, your child will be paid \$20.00 for their time.

If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact Dr. Joseph P. Hornick, Executive Director, CRILF, at (403) 216-0340.

**APPENDIX B**  
**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**



# A STUDY OF YOUTH OFFENDING IN CALGARY

## INTERVIEW SCHEDULE TRANSCRIPTION

Interview Conducted By:

Interviewee:

Date:

---

### PART A: Facts About You

---

1. How old are you?            years
2. What is your racial or ethnic background?

What country were you born in?

Were your parents born in Canada?

Mother:  Yes  No

Father:  Yes  No

*If no:* In what country were your parents born?

Mother

Father

3. Do you have any brothers or sisters?  No  Yes

*If yes:* How many?

Brother(s):            Details:

Sister(s):            Details:

4. Who do you live with? (all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Mother and father together	<input type="checkbox"/> Other relative
<input type="checkbox"/> Father	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster Parents
<input type="checkbox"/> Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian
<input type="checkbox"/> Stepmother	<input type="checkbox"/> Group Home
<input type="checkbox"/> Stepfather	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-relative
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other living arrangement
<input type="checkbox"/> Brother(s)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sister(s)	

5. What is your parents' marital status? (Are they married, divorced, separated, remarried...?)

*If parents are divorced or separated,* how old were you when this happened?

6. Does your mother have a job? What does she do?  
 Yes  
 No
7. Does your father have a job? What does he do?  
 Yes  
 No
8. How well do you get along with your mother?
9. How well do you get along with your father?
10. What kind of relationship do you have with [*all other people mentioned in # 3 – if siblings, ask if younger or older*]?
11. Have you ever run away from home?  
 No  
 Yes  
*If yes:* What was the reason?  
How many times?  
How old were you when you first did it?
12. Have you ever been involved with child welfare services?  
 No  
 Yes  
*If yes:* What were the circumstances?  
What?  
When?  
Are you currently under a guardianship order?  Yes  No
13. Have you ever been in foster care?  
 No  
 Yes  
*If yes:* How old were you when you first went into foster care?  
How long were you in [*or have you been in*] foster care?  
How many foster homes have you been in?
- Have you ever lived in a group home?  
 No  
 Yes  
*If yes:* How old were you when you first went into the group home?  
How long were you in [*or have you been in*] the group home?  
How many group homes have you been in?

14. Do you take any prescription medications?

- No  
 Yes

If yes: Do you know the name?

Why do you take these medication(s)?

---

## **PART B: Your Community**

---

1. What community area do you live in?

How long have you lived in this community?

If less than a year: What community did you live in before this one?

2. How safe do you feel (or would you feel) walking alone in your community after dark?

If you do not feel safe: Why not?

Do you carry a weapon?  No  Yes

If yes, what?

<input type="checkbox"/> Knife	<input type="checkbox"/> Club, bat or baton
<input type="checkbox"/> Sword/machete	<input type="checkbox"/> Pellet, BB, airsoft or paintball gun
<input type="checkbox"/> Imitation (i.e., of a gun, knife)	<input type="checkbox"/> Handgun
<input type="checkbox"/> Homemade weapon	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Pepper spray or bear spray	

How often?

Have you ever used it?  No  Yes

If yes: Describe circumstances

3. How many times per week do you take:

- a) Calgary Transit Buses  
b) LRT

4. How safe do you feel (or would you feel) while waiting for or using the following forms of public transportation alone after dark?

- a) Calgary Transit Buses

If respondent does not feel safe: Why don't you feel safe?

b) LRT

If respondent does not feel safe: Why don't you feel safe?

5. How safe do you feel when you are alone in your home at night?

If respondent does not feel safe: Why don't you feel safe?

---

### **PART C: Your School**

---

1. Are you currently attending school?  No  Yes

If yes: What school do you go to?

What grade are you in?

Do you like school?

Do you like your teachers?

If no: Do you plan to go back?  No  Yes  Maybe

*(If the respondent is not in school, skip to #7)*

2. How well do you do in school?

3. How much schooling do you expect to complete eventually?

Highschool graduation

Technical/Trade school

College

University

Do not expect to finish highschool

4. Do you skip classes?  No  Yes

If yes: How often?

5. Have you ever been suspended from school (not including in-school suspensions/detentions)?  No  Yes

If yes: Have you been suspended in the past year?  No  Yes

If yes: How many times?

Why?

*If suspended often:* When did the suspensions start?  
Why do think they started?

6. Have you ever thought seriously of dropping out of school?  
 No  Yes
7. Have you ever been bullied at school? (*For respondents who are not currently in school: When you were in school...*)  
 No  Yes
8. Have you ever been in fights with other students at school? (*For respondents who are not currently in school, ask: When you were in school...*)  
 No  Yes
9. Have you ever taken a weapon to school? (*For respondents who are not currently in school, ask: When you were in school...*)  
 No  Yes

*If yes:* What kind of weapon?

<input type="checkbox"/> Knife	<input type="checkbox"/> Club, bat or baton
<input type="checkbox"/> Sword/machete	<input type="checkbox"/> Pellet, BB, airsoft or paintball gun
<input type="checkbox"/> Imitation (i.e., of a gun, knife)	<input type="checkbox"/> Handgun
<input type="checkbox"/> Homemade weapon	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Pepper spray or bear spray	

How often?

Why did you take it?

Have you ever used it?  No  Yes

*If yes:* Describe circumstances...

---

## **PART D: Your Social Life**

---

1. Where did you meet most of your friends?

2. Are your closest friends about the same age as you, or do they tend to be older or younger than you?

- Same age
- Mostly older
- Mostly younger
- Vary in age

3. Apart from school, about how many times a week do you see your friends?

- Everyday
- Every weekend
- A few times per week
- Less than once per week

4. Is that usually just one or two people, or three or more?

- One person
- Two people
- Three or more

5. Males or females, or both?

- Mostly males
- Mostly females
- Both

6. Do you have a boyfriend or girlfriend?

- No
- Yes →  Boyfriend  Girlfriend

7. Do your parents [or the people you live with] approve of your friends?

- No
- Yes

*IF respondent has a boyfriend or girlfriend...*

Do your parents [or the people you live with] approve of your girlfriend/boyfriend?

- No
- Yes

8. Do your friends ever disapprove of any of the things you do?

- No
- Yes

*If yes:* What do they disapprove of?

*IF respondent has a boyfriend or girlfriend...*

Does your girlfriend/boyfriend ever disapprove of any of the things you do?

No  Yes

*If yes:* What does she/he disapprove of?

9. Do you ever get into trouble with the police when you are with your friends?

No  Yes

*IF respondent has a boyfriend or girlfriend...*

Do you ever get into trouble with the police when you are with your girlfriend/boyfriend?

No  Yes

10. Do your friends usually have more money, less money, or about the same as you to spend on things like food and going out each week?

More money  Less Money  Same Amount

11. On average, how much money do you spend per week on things like food and going out?

Less than \$25  \$50 - \$100  
 \$25 - \$50  More than \$100

12. How many times a week do you do leisure activities with your parents?

*If respondent does not live with parents:* How many times a week do you do activities with your caregivers/guardians?

13. Are you involved in organized activities after school?  No  Yes

*If yes:* What activities?

*If no:* What do you do after school?

Is there something else you would like to be doing?

14. Do you take part in any sports which involve adult coaching or instruction?

No  Yes – Which sports?

15. Do you take part in any lessons or instruction in music, dance, art, individual hobbies or any other nonsport activity?  No  Yes – What kinds?

16. Do you belong to any clubs or groups with adult leadership?  No  Yes  
If yes: Which clubs/groups?
17. Do you have a job?  No  Yes  
If yes: What do you?  
 How many hours a week do you work?
18. The following questions ask about things that people sometimes do. For each of the following, tell me if you have EVER done these things. If so, how old were you when you first did them? Have you done them in the PAST YEAR and how often? When did you do them (day of week/time of day)?
- a)  had 5 or more drinks of alcohol on one occasion?  
 How old first time?  
 Past year?  No  Yes → How often?  
 When?
- b)  used illegal drugs?  
If yes: Which ones?
- i)  marijuana or hash?  
 How old first time?  
 Past year?  No  Yes → How often?
- ii)  steroids?  
 How old first time?  
 Past year?  No  Yes → How often?
- iii)  ecstasy?  
 How old first time?  
 Past year?  No  Yes → How often?
- iv)  crystal methamphetamine?  
 How old first time?  
 Past year?  No  Yes → How often?
- v)  cocaine?  
 How old first time?  
 Past year?  No  Yes → How often?
- vi)  crack?  
 How old first time?  
 Past year?  No  Yes → How often?
- vii)  mushrooms?  
 How old first time?  
 Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

viii)  other illegal drugs?  
How old first time?  
Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

ix)  used prescription drugs that weren't prescribed for you?  
How old first time?  
Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

When do you usually use drugs?

Would you know where to find drugs if you wanted to use them?  
 No  Yes

c)  bought illegal drugs?  
How old first time?  
Past year?  No  Yes → How often?  
When?

d)  sold illegal drugs?  
How old first time?  
Past year?  No  Yes → How often?  
When?

e)  ridden Calgary Transit without having a valid ticket?  
How old first time?  
Past year?  No  Yes → How often?  
Why?  
*If relevant:* When?

g)  damaged/vandalized/tagged Calgary Transit property?  
What did you do?  
How old first time?  
Past year?  No  Yes → How often?  
When?

h)  damaged or destroyed someone else's property on purpose?  
How old first time?  
Past year?  No  Yes → How often?  
When?

i)  broken into a house?  
How old first time?  
Past year?  No  Yes → How often?  
When?

j) Have you ever stolen anything from a place or a person?  Yes  No  
*If yes...*

i)  stolen something worth less than \$50?

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

ii)  stolen something worth \$50 or more?

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

iii)  stolen a car or motorcycle?

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

iv)  stolen something with a group of friends?

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

v)  taken or tried to take something from someone by using force or threat of force?

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

Why do you steal?

When do you normally steal?

k) Have you ever harassed, threatened, or bullied someone?  Yes  No  
*If yes...*

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

harassed anyone on Calgary Transit (or at the station)?

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

have you ever threatened someone with a weapon? (this includes having weapon on you while intimidating, assaulting, or threatening someone)

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

Why do you harass/threaten/bully people?

Is there a certain time of day when you normally do that?

- l) Have you ever assaulted or hurt someone (i.e., slapped, punched, kicked, struck with an object, etc)?  Yes  No

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

Have you assaulted or hurt someone with a weapon?  Yes  No

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

Have you ever assaulted anyone on Calgary Transit property?  Yes  No

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

Have you ever assaulted someone with your friends?  Yes  No

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

What often leads to you assaulting people?

Is there a certain time of day when you normally do that?

- m)  together with a group of friends, fought with others?

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

Why?

*If appropriate:* When?

- n)  had or tried to have any kind of sexual contact, including kissing or sexual touching, with someone against their will?

How old first time?

Past year?  No  Yes → How often?

Why?

*If appropriate:* When?

---

## **PART E: Your Offending History**

---

1. What did you do that resulted in your current supervision order/your diversion to Gateway? [describe incident, what led to it, police response, justice system response, social service response, mental health response]

Incident:

Police response:

Justice system response:

Social service/Mental health response:

2. How did your parents react?
3. How did your friends react?
4. How old were you when you first had contact with the police because of something you did?  
Age:
5. What happened? [describe incident, what led to it, police response, justice system response, social service response, mental health response]  
Incident:  
  
Police response:  
  
Justice system response:  
  
Social service/Mental health response:
6. How did your parents react?
7. How did your friends react?
8. Do you think the incident should have been handled differently than it was?  
*(NOTE: interviewer should tailor this question to response in question 5 above).*  
 No  Yes  
If yes: how?
9. Had you engaged in any delinquent behaviour before you were caught?  
 No  Yes  
If yes: What kinds of things had you done?  
  
Why did you do them?  
  
Who did you do them with?

---

## **PART F: Your Knowledge of Gangs**

---

1. What do you think a gang is? (What is your definition of a gang?)

*We have a similar/different definition.* We define a gang as a group of three or more youth who regularly engage in criminal activity. The following questions ask about your knowledge of gangs. Can you please answer the questions based on our definition?

2. Are there [*or were there*] any gangs at your school?

No  Yes

If yes: Can you tell me the name(s) of the gangs?

What do they do? (i.e. activity)

Are there any gangs in your community?

No  Yes

If yes: Can you tell me the name(s) of the gangs?

What do they do? (i.e. activity)

3. Do any of your friends belong to a gang?  No  Yes

4. Has a gang ever tried to recruit you as a member?  No  Yes

If yes: What was the gang's name?

5. Have you ever been a member of a gang?  No  Yes

If yes: What was the gang's name?

6. Are you a gang member now?  No  Yes

If yes: What is the gang's name?

**<IF NO, SKIP TO PART G>**

7. How many members are there in your gang?

8. Are there both males and females in your gang?

Just males  Just females  Both

9. Do all the members of your gang belong to the same ethnic group?

No  Yes

10. What activities does your gang do?

What is the structure of your gang? (How is your gang organized?)

11. Why did you join the gang?

When did you join?

How did you join?

Do you want to get out?  No  Yes  Maybe  Don't know

IF yes: how would you get out of the gang?

---

## **PART G: Your Future**

---

1. To sum up, how do you feel about the way things are going in your life right now?
2. What do you think you will be doing this time next year?
3. How about in five years from now?

**APPENDIX C**  
**PROBATION INTERVIEW PROTOCOL**



**INTERVIEW PROTOCOL - PROBATION**  
**Re: Youth Offending Study**

- Introduce interviewer: brief description of CRILF and what we do
- Provide overview of study, purpose and rationale for conducting the interview, what the information will be used for
- Outline how the session will run

Hi, I'm     (name)     and I work for a research institute here in Calgary. We do research projects on various issues related to law and the family. We are not part of the police service or connected to any judges, lawyers, or other justice officials. Right now we are working on a study of youth offending in Calgary. The information we get will be used to assist the City in developing programs for youth who run into trouble with the law.

We are interviewing a lot of youth who have various experiences with offending -- thanks for taking the time to talk to me about your experiences. I will be asking you questions about school, your social life, your family, your experiences with the police, your offending history, and your general thoughts on crime. If there are any questions you do not want to answer, just tell me and we will move on to the next question. Your answers to the questions will be kept completely confidential; in other words, no one is going to know that it was you who gave these particular answers and we will never use your name in anything that we write.

Please be as honest as you can in the interview. I am going to ask you some questions about your criminal activity, but I will not go to the police with anything we talk about. What you say in this interview will not affect your probation order or your dealings with the justice system (good or bad). Other than me, no one will ever see your responses. If at any time you want to withdraw completely from the interview, you can do so without any consequences.

Do you feel okay with this so far? Here is the consent form we need you to sign before participating in the interview. *(go through form - leave information sheet with them)*

Do you have any questions of me before we begin? This should take about 30 to 45 minutes. I'm going to ask you some specific questions, but I want you to feel free to talk about your experiences.



**APPENDIX D**

**GATEWAY INTERVIEW PROTOCOL**



**INTERVIEW PROTOCOL - GATEWAY**  
**Re: Youth Offending Study**

- Introduce interviewer: brief description of CRILF and what we do
- Provide overview of study, purpose and rationale for conducting the interview, what the information will be used for
- Outline how the session will run

Hi, I'm     (name)     and I work for a research institute here in Calgary. We do research projects on various issues related to law and the family. We are not part of the police service or connected to any judges, lawyers, or other justice officials. Right now we are working on a study of youth offending in Calgary. The information we get will be used to assist the City in developing programs for youth who run into trouble with the law.

We are interviewing a lot of youth who have various experiences with offending -- thanks for taking the time to talk to me about your experiences. I will be asking you questions about school, your social life, your family, your experiences with the police, what brought you to Gateway, and your general thoughts on crime. If there are any questions you do not want to answer, just tell me and we will move on to the next question. Your answers to the questions will be kept completely confidential; in other words, no one is going to know that it was you who gave these particular answers and we will never use your name in anything that we write.

Please be as honest as you can in the interview. I am going to ask you some questions about your behaviour, but what you say in this interview will not affect your Gateway program (good or bad). Other than me, no one will ever see your responses. If at any time you want to withdraw completely from the interview, you can do so without any consequences.

Do you feel okay with this so far? Here is the consent form we need you to sign before participating in the interview. (*go through form - leave information sheet with them*)

Do you have any questions of me before we begin? This should take about 30 to 45 minutes. I'm going to ask you some specific questions, but I want you to feel free to talk about your experiences.



**APPENDIX E**  
**PROBATION FILE REVIEW**



## A Study of Youth Offending in Calgary

### File Review Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(dd/mm/yy)

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1. Demographic Information

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:      Male                    Female

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Welfare Status?    Not applicable    Temporary Guardianship Order    Permanent Guardianship Order    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Living Arrangement (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Mother and father together <input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Stepmother <input type="checkbox"/> Stepfather <input type="checkbox"/> Grandparent(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Other relative <input type="checkbox"/> Brother(s) # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Sister(s) # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stepbrother(s) # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Stepsister(s) # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Half brother(s) # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Half sister(s) # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Foster parents <input type="checkbox"/> Legal guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Group home <input type="checkbox"/> Non-relative _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
--	--

City Area:    NW    NE    SW    SE   Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Offender Type:    Group 2 (One-Time)    Group 3 (Persistent)    Group 4 (SHO)

#### 2. Family Information/History

Parents' Marital Status:    Never Married    Married    Separated    Divorced    Widowed

<b>Number of Siblings:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Brother(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sister(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stepbrother(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Stepsister(s) _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Half brother(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Half sister(s) _____		
<b>Family Circumstances:</b>	<i>Include any additional relevant information about family relationships (i.e. new parental relationships, etc.)</i>			
<b>History of Family Violence?</b>	<i>Include any relevant child welfare involvement, abuse, parental arrest/abuse, etc.</i>			
	<b>Age family problems began:</b> _____			

<b>Family Financial Status:</b>	<b>Mother/Female Guardian</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Employed	<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/> Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Homemaker
		<input type="checkbox"/> FT	<input type="checkbox"/> PT			

	<b>Father/Male Guardian</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Employed	<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/> Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input type="checkbox"/> Homemaker
		<input type="checkbox"/> FT	<input type="checkbox"/> PT			

<b>Non-parental arrangement?</b>	(enter all placements)	
	<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Background (age, situation, placement, outcome)</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> Foster Care		
	1.	_____
	2.	_____
	3.	_____
	4.	_____
	5.	_____

<input type="checkbox"/> Group Home		
	1.	_____
	2.	_____
	3.	_____
	4.	_____
	5.	_____

<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Kin Care		
	1.	_____
	2.	_____
	3.	_____
	4.	_____
	5.	_____

<input type="checkbox"/> Informal Kin Care		
	1.	_____
	2.	_____
	3.	_____
	4.	_____
	5.	_____

<input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable for this respondent
---

**3. Mental/Psychological/Physical/Social Health**

Psychological Assessment History	Date dd/mm/yy	Type of Assessment	Outcome of Assessment	Notes (i.e., reason, etc)
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Treatment, Counselling & Program History	Date dd/mm/yy	Type	Reason for Response	Additional Notes (i.e., outcomes)
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____

<b>Youth Attributes (i.e., self esteem, anger issues, positive qualities, etc)</b>	
1.	Youth struggles with... _____
2.	Youth excels at... _____
3.	Drug/alcohol use? _____
<b>Relevant Social Details</b>	<i>(i.e. friends, relationships, out of school activities, etc)</i>
	_____

**4. Education/Employment History**

<b>Education</b>	<b>Currently in School?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No			
	<b>Completed?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes→	Diploma?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	<b>Dropped out?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes→	Last completed grade:	_____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			
	<b>Current Grade:</b>	_____			
	<b>Educational Performance</b>	<i>(i.e., grades, suspensions, learning difficulties)</i>			
		_____			
	<b>If school difficulties, age of onset:</b>	_____			

<b>Employment</b>	<b>Currently Employed?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes→	<b>Employer:</b>	_____
			<b>Since: dd/mm/yy</b>	_____

**5. Youth Offending History**

**SPECIAL NOTES**  
*Indicate youth's reaction to crimes/sentence – i.e., accepted responsibility, defiance, compliance, etc. – whether youth is violent, gang involvement, any other relevant features not indicated in offending history*

\_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER NOTES**  
*Any other important/relevant information concerning any aspect of the youth's life*

\_\_\_\_\_



**APPENDIX F**  
**JOIN REVIEW FORM**



## Youth Offending History (from JOIN)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### PART A: Substantive Incidents and Outcomes

List *substantive* incidents chronologically, from most recent

Incident #	<b>Incident date:</b>		<b>Appearance date:</b>	
	<b># appearances:</b>		<b>Sentencing date::</b>	
	<b>Charge(s):</b>	• C1:		<b>Finding(s): (list findings by charge)</b> • FC1:
	<b>Co-accused?:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes #	<b>Disposition(s):</b> • DC1:
	<b>Additional Notes:</b>	•		
Incident #	<b>Incident date:</b>		<b>Appearance date:</b>	
	<b># appearances:</b>		<b>Sentencing date::</b>	
	<b>Charge(s):</b>	• C1:		<b>Finding(s): (list findings by charge)</b> • FC1:
	<b>Co-accused?:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes #	<b>Disposition(s):</b> • DC1:
	<b>Additional Notes:</b>	•		
Incident #	<b>Incident date:</b>		<b>Appearance date:</b>	
	<b># appearances:</b>		<b>Sentencing date::</b>	
	<b>Charge(s):</b>	• C1:		<b>Finding(s): (list findings by charge)</b> • FC1:
	<b>Co-accused?:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes #	<b>Disposition(s):</b> • DC1:
	<b>Additional Notes:</b>	•		
Incident #	<b>Incident date:</b>		<b>Appearance date:</b>	
	<b># appearances:</b>		<b>Sentencing date::</b>	
	<b>Charge(s):</b>	• C1:		<b>Finding(s): (list findings by charge)</b> • FC1:
	<b>Co-accused?:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes #	<b>Disposition(s):</b> • DC1:
	<b>Additional Notes:</b>	•		
Incident #	<b>Incident date:</b>		<b>Appearance date:</b>	
	<b># appearances:</b>		<b>Sentencing date::</b>	
	<b>Charge(s):</b>	• C1:		<b>Finding(s): (list findings by charge)</b> • FC1:
	<b>Co-accused?:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes #	<b>Disposition(s):</b> • DC1:
	<b>Additional Notes:</b>	•		

**PART B: Administration of Justice Charges and Outcomes**

List *administration of justice* incidents chronologically, from most recent

<b>Incident #</b>	<b>Incident date:</b>		<b>Appearance date:</b>	
	<b># appearances:</b>		<b>Sentencing date::</b>	
	<b>Charge(s):</b>	• C1:	<b>Finding(s): (list findings by charge)</b>	• FC1:
	<b>Disposition(s):</b>	• D1:		
	<b>Additional Notes:</b>	•		
<b>Incident #</b>	<b>Incident date:</b>		<b>Appearance date:</b>	
	<b># appearances:</b>		<b>Sentencing date::</b>	
	<b>Charge(s):</b>	• C1:	<b>Finding(s): (list findings by charge)</b>	• FC1:
	<b>Disposition(s):</b>	• D1:		
	<b>Additional Notes:</b>	•		
<b>Incident #</b>	<b>Incident date:</b>		<b>Appearance date:</b>	
	<b># appearances:</b>		<b>Sentencing date::</b>	
	<b>Charge(s):</b>	• C1:	<b>Finding(s): (list findings by charge)</b>	• FC1:
	<b>Disposition(s):</b>	• D1:		
	<b>Additional Notes:</b>	•		
<b>Incident #</b>	<b>Incident date:</b>		<b>Appearance date:</b>	
	<b># appearances:</b>		<b>Sentencing date::</b>	
	<b>Charge(s):</b>	• C1:	<b>Finding(s): (list findings by charge)</b>	• FC1:
	<b>Disposition(s):</b>	• D1:		
	<b>Additional Notes:</b>	•		
<b>Incident #</b>	<b>Incident date:</b>		<b>Appearance date:</b>	
	<b># appearances:</b>		<b>Sentencing date::</b>	
	<b>Charge(s):</b>	• C1:	<b>Finding(s): (list findings by charge)</b>	• FC1:
	<b>Disposition(s):</b>	• D1:		
	<b>Additional Notes:</b>	•		

## **APPENDIX G**

### **SECURITY PROTOCOL FOR PIMS DATA**



**A Study of Youth Offending in Calgary  
Protocol for Secure Handling of Calgary Police Service Police Information  
Management System (PIMS) Data**

In order to develop a model for predicting how/why some youth become more heavily involved in crime than others, several data collection strategies are being employed by CRILF. One data collection strategy involves PIMS, the Calgary Police Service Police Information Management System, from which CRILF aims to obtain the following information:

- (1) Youth crime data for the period of January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.
- (2) Crime data for approximately 200 youth who are participating in the study. Data will be used to track contact with police from the time of the initial interview; data will be obtained every six months for a 24 month period.
- (3) Historical data for youth SHOP targets and a random sample of offending (non-SHOP) youth over a period of six years.

Given the sensitive nature of this data, CRILF researchers will use the utmost care and security in its use and storage. The following protocols are in place to ensure the protection of electronic data:

- (1) **Acquisition of Electronic Data:** Electronic data will be acquired from the Calgary Police Service via data CD. The data will be obtained and transported to CRILF offices by a staff member.
- (2) **Storage:** PIMS data will be transferred and stored on the project Research Associate's (Ms. Leslie MacRae) non-networked, password protected, personal office computer. The original data CD will be stored in a securely locked cabinet.
- (3) **Data Format:** For the purposes of analysis and reporting, any data obtained from the Calgary Police Service that contains identifying information will be reformatted to remove personal identifiers, and each case will be assigned a unique identification number. For the purpose of tracking cases, a master list that matches case numbers with identifying information will be held by the Project Manager in a securely locked file drawer, with access available only to the Project Manager.
- (4) **Analysis and Reporting:** Data will be analyzed and reported in aggregate form. No individual cases will be examined or discussed in CRILF research reports.
- (5) **Office/Staff Security:** CRILF offices are securely locked when staff is not on the premises, the location meeting federal and provincial standards for a "secure" building. Further, the project researchers will fully protect all PIMS information from dissemination and/or disclosure. Only those identified in the study proposal will have access to the data. All project staff has secret security clearance with the federal government.



## **APPENDIX H**

### **PROTOCOLS FOR ANONYMITY, CONFIDENTIALITY, AND SECURE USE OF INFORMATION: INTERVIEWS AND FILE REVIEWS**



## **A Study of Youth Offending in Calgary Protocol for Secure Handling of Data**

In order to develop a model for predicting how/why some youth become more heavily involved in crime than others, several data collection strategies are being pursued by CRILF. Given the sensitive nature of this data, CRILF researchers plan to use the utmost care in its collection, transport, and storage.

The following protocols are in place to ensure the protection of stored data:

(1) **Life History Interview Data:** Interview participants are recruited via probation officers, who are aware of the selection criteria and inform the researchers of suitable participants. Researchers meet with the interview participants at their probation office at a time suitable for them. The life history interviews consist of personal questions about age, ethnicity, living arrangement, family history, community information, perceptions of safety, school information, social relationships, delinquent behaviour, offending history, gang knowledge and involvement, and future plans.

The researcher conducting the interview records the participants' responses by hand on the interview schedule. Care is taken to ensure that the response forms are securely transported to CRILF offices, where they are locked in a cabinet for safe storage. Only researchers have access to this storage location.

The interviews are also transcribed into electronic format for better manageability. The electronic transcriptions are stored on researchers' personal computers, which are password protected. Backup of these transcriptions is stored on a memory stick, which is locked securely in a cabinet when not in use.

(2) **Probation File Review Data:** If a youth has been selected for a life history interview, the researcher conducts a review of their probation file prior to conducting the interview for purposes of additional data, background, and information corroboration.<sup>1</sup> The file reviews are conducted at the probation office, using a laptop computer and electronic file review form. Only the information required of the file review form is gathered. Once the file review is complete, the electronic file is removed from the laptop computer using a memory stick, and is immediately transferred to the researchers' password protected personal computer. File reviews are permanently erased from the laptop computer following this transfer. Backup is maintained on the memory stick, which is securely locked in a cabinet when not in use.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to fewer numbers and for comparison purposes, researchers will conduct file reviews of all youth designated as Serious Habitual Offenders (SHOs). However, it is expected that not all of these youth will be willing or available to participate in an interview.

Data from the interviews and file reviews will be coded and entered in either quantitative or qualitative form. Information for each youth will only be distinguishable by a designated identification number; no identifying information (i.e., names) will be contained in the datasets, or in the analysis or writing of the final report. All information will be protected by the strictest measures of anonymity and confidentiality.

CRILF offices are securely locked when staff is not on the premises. Further, researchers take diligent care to protect youths' personal information from dissemination and/or disclosure. Only those permitted will have access to the data.

## **APPENDIX I**

### **PROTOCOLS FOR ANONYMITY, CONFIDENTIALITY, AND SECURE USE OF INFORMATION: CRILF'S ACCESS TO JOIN**



**A Study of Youth Offending in Calgary  
Protocol for Secure Handling of JOIN Data  
(Amended January 31, 2007)**

CRILF's project, "A Study of Youth Offending in Calgary," involves three key objectives:

1. Identifying how the implementation of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)* has affected the flow of cases through the youth criminal justice system in Alberta;
2. Developing a model for predicting how/why some youth become more heavily involved in crime than others;
3. Identifying the state of the art and current practices in Canada regarding predictors of offending by youth, use of risk assessment and decision making instruments in Canada, and prevention programs targeted at chronic/persistent youth offenders across Canada.

Given the complexity of the study, several data collection strategies are being pursued by CRILF to meet these objectives. The Alberta Solicitor General has permitted access to relevant data sources through a Research Agreement with CRILF. The Calgary Police Service has permitted access to relevant data sources through a Letter of Understanding with CRILF. In addition, CRILF is requesting access to the JOIN database. It is understood that JOIN will provide the researchers with the most comprehensive information regarding offending history, which will ultimately be of great value in developing the most accurate offender profiles and predictive model.

CRILF fully recognizes the sensitive nature of the subjects and the personal information contained in JOIN. As such, CRILF researchers will practice the utmost care in its acquisition, storage, and use.

The following protocols will be in place to ensure the security of JOIN data:

- (1) **Access:** JOIN data will be accessed at a City of Calgary Youth Probation office with the assistance of an authorized staff member, who will provide the researchers with password access to JOIN. In order to avoid any undue impact on regular business use of the system, researchers will access it during non-business hours (evenings, weekends).

JOIN data will only be accessed for those youth who have consented to participate and have been deemed appropriate to be interviewed for the study. Additionally, JOIN data for all youth who have been designated for the Serious

Habitual Offender Program (SHOP) will be accessed by the researchers.<sup>1</sup> Only information specified by a standard form developed by CRILF – the Youth Offending History form (see appendix) - will be taken from the JOIN system; this form will be completed onsite by the researchers from onscreen information.

- (2) **Data Requirements:** Information required in the Youth Offending History form includes:
  - a) Substantive Charges and Outcomes
    - All substantive charges<sup>2</sup> against the youth
    - The offence and court dates of those charges
    - The court outcome of the charge (i.e., guilty, not guilty, withdrawn, etc.)
    - If applicable, the type and duration of sentence given by the court
  - b) Administration of Justice Charges and Outcomes
    - All administration of justice charges<sup>3</sup> against the youth
    - The offence and court dates of those charges
    - The court outcome of the charge (i.e., guilty, not guilty, withdrawn, etc.)
    - If applicable, the type and duration of sentence given by the court
- (3) **Youth Offending History Form Transport and Storage:** The researchers will ensure that the Youth Offending History forms are securely transported to CRILF offices, where they are locked in a cabinet for safe storage. Only permitted researchers have access to this storage location.
- (4) **Data Conversion:** The data obtained from JOIN will be converted to electronic format (SPSS) for better manageability and analysis. Information for each youth will only be distinguishable by a designated identification number; no identifying information (i.e., names, addresses) will be contained in the dataset, or in the analysis or writing of the final report. All information gained from JOIN will be protected by the strictest measures of anonymity and confidentiality.
- (5) **Electronic Storage:** This electronic data will be stored on researchers' computers, which are password protected. Backup of the data will be stored on a reliable data storage device, which will be locked securely in a cabinet when not in use.
- (6) **Office/Staff Security:** CRILF offices are securely locked when staff is not on the premises. Further, researchers will protect youths' personal information from dissemination and/or disclosure. Only those permitted in the study proposal will have access to the data.

---

1 Due to fewer numbers and for comparison purposes, researchers will conduct file reviews of all youth designated as Serious Habitual Offenders (SHOs). However, it is expected that not all of these youth will be willing or available to participate in an interview.

2 *Substantive Charges* are all charges *not* including breaches, failures to appear, etc.

3 *Administration of justice charges* include breaches, failures to appear, etc.

