



YOUTH CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN CANADA INFOGRAPHIC ACCESSIBLE ACCOMPANIMENT DOCUMENT

This is an accessible accompaniment document for the Youth Criminal Justice in Canada Infographic PDF. This document provides a description of each page of the infographic.

Page 1: Main Infographic Page

The page is split in half vertically by a winding road, with content about the criminal justice system on the left and content about restorative justice on the right. The header at the top of the page contains the title “Youth Criminal Justice in Canada: Journey of a Youth Offender Aged 12-17” with a blue sky background, a grey sky rise silhouette on the left (the criminal justice system side) and a sun, cloud, and mountain range on the right (the restorative justice side).

The background of the remainder of the left (the criminal justice system side) is grey and the right (the restorative justice side) is green.

At the bottom of the page, there is a street sign that points to “Criminal Justice” on the left and “Restorative Justice” on the right.

Beginning at the bottom of the criminal justice side on the left, there is a young man standing at the bottom of the road. Next to him, there are three boxes that say:

- Over 90,000 youth are accused of a crime every year (footnote 1 symbol).
- Majority are boys aged 16-17.
- Most common youth crimes are theft, mischief, & common assault.

Moving up the page on the criminal justice side are the following eight steps in the criminal justice system, each with a representative icon next to the text:

- 1. Police contact
- 2. Arrest/Charge by Police
- 3. Bail Hearing
- 4. First court appearance
- 5. Trial



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- 6. Sentencing
- 7. Reintegration
- 8. Community Supervision

From step 1 (police contact), there is a white dotted line that leads to a box near step 2 (arrest/charge by police) that says “45% are formally charged”, and another white dotted line that leads over to the restorative justice side of the page. There is a box at the centre of this line that says “55% are dealt with by other means, including referrals to community programs like Restorative Justice”.

Near step 4 (first court appearance), there are two boxes that say “nearly 40,000 youth court cases are held each year” and “56% result in a guilty finding”.

At the top of the criminal justice side of the page, there is a box that says, “the average cost of a youth offender throughout adolescence is estimated at \$823,099” (footnote 2 symbol).

At the top of the right (the restorative justice side), there is a box that says, “in contrast, the cost of sending a youth through a Restorative Justice program is estimated at under \$1,000” (footnote 3 symbol).

Below this box, the white dotted line from the other side of the page meets with the phrase “Restorative Justice”, which has an icon of a circle of people next to it.

Moving down the right side of the page, there are two boxes that say “Restorative Justice programs result in increased victim satisfaction, increased offender satisfaction, decreased recidivism” (footnote 4 symbol) and “as high as 30% reduction in recidivism” (footnote 5 symbol).

Below these two boxes, there are three trees.

At the bottom of the restorative justice side (below the street sign), it says “for example: Victim-Offender Mediation/Dialogue, Family Group Conferencing, Youth Justice Committees”.

Page 2: Additional Information Page

The same header with the title “Youth Criminal Justice in Canada: Journey of a Youth Offender aged 12-17” is repeated.

The background of the rest of the page is blue.





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Below the header is a box that spans the width of the page that says, “this diagram depicts the typical journey of a youth offender (12-17 years of age) through the Canadian criminal justice system; however the flow of steps is always in flux and depends on each individual case”.

Below that is a section with the title “Criminal Justice” that lists and describes the eight steps from the first page. The first four steps are listed on the left and the second four steps are listed on the right.

- 1. Police contact: The youth comes into contact with police after committing a crime. Under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, police are encouraged to use extrajudicial measures such as warnings and referrals to community services.
- 2. Arrest/Charge by Police: The police either send the youth to a detention centre for custody or release him/her. The decision to arrest or charge is based on the seriousness of the offence, risk of harm, etc.
- 3. Bail Hearing: Again, the youth is either released or is sent to / remains in custody at a detention centre.
- 4. First Court Appearance: The youth attends his/her first court appearance and may be given extrajudicial sanctions (e.g. community service, counselling).
- 5. Trial: The youth attends a trial in which a judge and/or jury examines evidence to determine guilt. Each trial is unique and the youth is presumed “innocent until proven guilty”.
- 6. Sentencing: If the youth is convicted, there are many possible sentencing options in the Youth Criminal Justice Act including fines, probation, community service, and custody. Cases can include more than one sentence.
- 7. Reintegration: Once the youth has completed his/her sentence, he/she is reintegrated into the community to attend school, find work, and/or attend needed programs.
- 8. Community Supervision: If the youth offender served a custodial sentence, he/she is then required to serve community supervision. The youth works with a probation officer on a plan aimed at decreasing re-offense.

Below that is a section with the title “Restorative Justice” that contains the following four paragraphs:



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- Restorative Justice has been seen as an alternative to the traditional court system but is being used more and more together with the current criminal justice system as an opportunity to address harm.
- Restorative Justice is an inclusive process that is based on an understanding that crime is a violation of people and relationships. It offers a meaningful voice to victims and community members and is an opportunity for offenders to take responsibility for their actions.
- Although our diagram depicts the ideal entry into Restorative Justice, other entry points include: (a) Crown (post-charge); (b) courts (pre-sentence); (c) corrections (post-sentence); and (d) parole (pre-revocation).
- About half of youth offenders re-offend in adulthood and adult corrections cost about 75% more than youth corrections. This further supports the need for Restorative Justice programs that help prevent youth recidivism.

Below that is a section titled “Cost Savings” with a box underneath that says in red “Restorative Justice is more than six times more cost-effective than traditional criminal justice” (footnote 6 symbol). Below that it says, “this figure is based on a cost-effectiveness analysis that compared both the costs and outcomes of contemporary Restorative Justice programs and traditional criminal justice methods. Restorative Justice had a lower cost per percentage of effectiveness”.

The final section at the bottom of the page says “by: Nicole Jeffrey, Alexandra Therien, and Venus Bali, in partnership with: Family Counselling and Support Services for Guelph-Wellington & Canadian Families and Corrections Network”. The Research Shop logo is next to this text with the URL below: <http://www.cesinstitute.ca/>

Page 3: Footnotes and References Page

The same header with the title “Youth Criminal Justice in Canada: Journey of a Youth Offender aged 12-17” is repeated.

Below that is a section titled “Footnotes”, followed by the sentence “Most of the crime statistics presented in the diagram above are from Canadian national data”.

Below that are six notes preceded by symbols that correspond to different sections of the first two pages of the infographic.



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- (footnote 1 symbol) There were 92,051 youth who were accused of a crime in Canada in 2015, according to Statistics Canada.
- (footnote 2 symbol) This cost was calculated from estimations gathered through a 15-year follow-up study conducted in Toronto, Ontario. Some of the sample would have reoffended during this time period. The number represents the total average cost of a single youth offender throughout their adolescence (ages 12-17) and includes victim costs, correctional costs, and other criminal justice system costs (e.g. police, courts, prosecution and legal aid).
- (footnote 3 symbol) Based on an estimate of youth Restorative Justice for low risk offenders in Washington State and personal communication with a Restorative Justice program in Ontario, Canada.
- (footnote 4 symbol) These statistically significant findings were collected in a meta-analysis of studies examining the effectiveness of Restorative Justice programs compared to traditional non-restorative approaches.
- (footnote 5 symbol) Meta-analyses have found reductions in youth recidivism ranging from 2% to 30%. This reduction rate likely depends, in part, on the type of Restorative Justice program, offender characteristics, and offense type. The highest reduction rate found (30%) is based on a meta-analysis of victim-offender mediation programs.
- (footnote 6 symbol) Based on U.S. Restorative Justice and traditional criminal justice cost and outcome estimates. Although some criminal justice cost data was missing, any additional costs would have only bolstered the results suggesting that Restorative Justice is more cost-effective.

Below the footnotes is a section titled “References” with the following 19 references:

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