

## Young offender numbers

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*Series: Stolen Lives: An in-depth look at the dangerous world of auto crime*

A national study on the involvement of youth in auto crime is presently being coordinated by the Winnipeg-based National Committee to Reduce Auto Theft.

University of Manitoba staff have submitted a draft report after interviewing dozens of youth in custody about their auto theft experiences.

Preliminary findings include:

- 75 per cent come from comfortable homes.
- Two-thirds are from one-parent homes.
- 75 per cent had brought stolen vehicles to school.
- 60 per cent had played the video game Grand Theft Auto.
- 98 per cent had friends that also stole vehicles.
- Two-thirds can enter and start a car in less than a minute.
- 77 per cent had stolen a vehicle left with keys in the ignition.
- An immobilizer is the biggest theft deterrent.
- 85 per cent had been involved in a police chase.
- 54 per cent had participated in a car-stealing contest.
- 56 per cent believe sentences are too lenient.
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### B.C. SEES DECLINE OF YOUTH IN CUSTODY

The average number of youth in detention in B.C. the past six years:

2000: 290

2001: 257

2002: 219

2003: 152

2004: 154

2005: 136

Source: Ministry of Children and Family Development