

# TREATMENT BY POLICE & CRIMINAL CHARGES

**BASED ON FINDINGS FROM THE EVERYDAY LEGAL PROBLEMS AND THE COST OF JUSTICE IN CANADA SURVEY:**

Within a three-year period about 430,000 Canadians over the age of 18 experience one or more serious problems related to the way they are treated by police.

**ALMOST  
360,000** relate to being **unreasonably stopped and questioned by the police.**

**ABOUT  
290,000** relate to being **threatened by verbally aggressive police officers.**

**ABOUT  
150,000** relate to **feeling physically threatened by police officers.**

**ABOUT  
84,000** related to **being physically assaulted by a police officer.**

Within a three-year period, about 99,000 people who experience one or more serious civil and family justice problems in Canada also report being detained or arrested by police.

**Of the charges:**

**ALMOST  
9,000** relate to **impaired driving.**

**ABOUT  
9,500** relate to a different **highway traffic offence (not impaired driving).**

**ALMOST  
40,000** relate to a **drug offence: possession of drugs, trafficking and/or marijuana.**

**ALMOST  
6,000** relate to **assault.**

**ALMOST  
12,000** relate to a **breach of probation or a court order.**

For more information, please visit,  
Canadian Forum on Civil Justice, "Cost of Justice," online: <[www.cfcj-fcjc.org/cost-of-justice](http://www.cfcj-fcjc.org/cost-of-justice)>

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*“This research ... by the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice will be essential in helping us understand the true extent of the problem of cost and how it impacts on the justice system. I believe that it will prove to be of great assistance to ... identify concrete solutions to the problem of access to justice.”*

– The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada (2011)

The Canadian Forum on Civil Justice is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to civil justice reform and access to justice research and advocacy. Established by the Canadian Bar Association and affiliated with Osgoode Hall Law School, the CFCJ envisions an accessible, sustainable and effective justice system for all Canadians.

**Overview of the Cost of Justice project.** The Cost of Justice project (2011-2017) examines the social and economic costs of Canada’s justice system. It is guided by two questions: What is the cost of delivering access to justice? And what is the cost of not delivering access to justice? Comprised of leading researchers investigating various dimensions of access to justice and cost across the country, the Cost of Justice project is producing empirical data that will inform the future of access to justice in Canada and abroad. The lead research team includes: Trevor C.W. Farrow (Principal Investigator), Nicole Aylwin, Les Jacobs, Lisa Moore, and Diana Lowe.

The Cost of Justice project is funded by a \$1 million grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. For more details please visit Canadian Forum on Civil Justice, “Cost of Justice”, online: CFCJ <[www.cfcj-fcjc.org/cost-of-justice](http://www.cfcj-fcjc.org/cost-of-justice)>.



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