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# A One-Day Snapshot of Inmates in Canada's Adult Correctional Facilities

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## Note of appreciation

*Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.*



## **Preface**

### **The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics**

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), a division of Statistics Canada, is the focal point of a federal-provincial/territorial enterprise known as the National Justice Statistics Initiative (NJSI). The mandate of the NJSI is: "To provide information to the justice community and the public on the nature and extent of crime and the administration of civil and criminal justice in Canada". Priorities and programs of the CCJS are guided by the Justice Information Council, which is a committee made up of federal-provincial/territorial Deputy Ministers responsible for the administration of justice in Canada and the Chief Statistician of Canada. The CCJS' work is guided and assisted by Liaison Officers who represent their respective Deputy Ministers.

The CCJS, in collaboration with the partners in the Initiative, develops and implements national surveys and "special studies" covering the major sectors of the justice system – policing, prosecutions, legal aid, courts and corrections. Information for these surveys and special studies is usually extracted from operational or management reporting systems in the jurisdictions, pursuant to an agreed-upon set of "national data requirements".

### **One-Day Snapshot Project**

Pursuant to Justice Information Council approval, the Centre began a special study called the Corrections Utilization Study. This study is a high priority initiative, and is referenced in the Corrections Population Growth Report presented to federal and provincial/territorial Ministers responsible for justice in May 1996. The study is divided into three components: a One-Day Snapshot Project; a Temporary Absence/Electronic Monitoring Project; and, a Recidivism Project. In April 1996, a sub-committee of Liaison Officers was established to assist the CCJS on the three projects.

Following approval from the Liaison Officers' Committee and the Justice Information Council, the CCJS began developmental work on the One-Day Snapshot of inmates on-register in adult correctional facilities in Canada. Between April and August 1996, Centre staff undertook extensive consultations with contacts from Correctional Service Canada and provincial/territorial jurisdictions to develop the contents of the Snapshot survey. An agreement was reached on a set of data requirements for the Snapshot and a data collection instrument was finalized by the CCJS. Arrangements were made for the jurisdictions to proceed with the Snapshot on Saturday October 5th, 1996. The data produced for the Snapshot cover all inmates on-register in the 199 federal and provincial/territorial adult correctional facilities at midnight on that date. This is the first time that a Snapshot of all adult inmates in Canada has been taken.

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