# CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

## CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.

# Older Offenders (65+) in Canadian Federal Corrections

*The growth of more older (65+) offenders under federal jurisdiction is largely due to new admissions.*

## Why we are doing this study

Over the past five years, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has seen an increase (+530 or 41.4%) in older offenders (65+) under federal jurisdiction [from **1,279** at year-end in *2012-13* to **1,809** in *2017-18*]. While the older offender population in federal custody has increased (+158 or 29.3%) from **539** at year-end in *2012-13* to **697** in *2017-18*, there has also been steady growth (+372 or 50.3%) in the conditional release supervision population from **740** at year-end in *2012-13* to **1,112** in *2017-18*. Also noteworthy, there has been a trend of proportionally more older offenders under community supervision (Outside) than in custody (Inside). Gaining an understanding of population changes can facilitate the allocation of programming and operational resources.

### Older Offender (65+) Population: *2012-13 to 2017-18*

| Fiscal Year-end | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Custody | 539 | 601 | 638 | 662 | 702 | 697 |
| Community | 740 | 793 | 843 | 924 | 1,004 | 1,112 |
| Total | 1,279 | 1,394 | 1,481 | 1,586 | 1,706 | 1,809 |
| *Growth Δ* | | *+115* | *+202* | *+307* | *+427* | *+530* |
| *Ratio In/Out* | *42/58* | *43/57* | *43/57* | *42/58* | *41/59* | *39/61* |

## What we did

Historical year-end federal institutional and community supervision counts are recorded as standardized reports in CSC's Corporate Reporting System-Modernized (CRS-M). Similarly, historical counts of federal admissions and releases are also recorded in CRS-M.

Data was extracted from CRS-M (March 1, 2019) capacity module to establish a five-year trend (*2012-13* to *2017-18*) of the flows into and out of federal custody. Then, a closer examination of the nature of the turnover (admissions/ releases) in the older (65+) population was undertaken.

## What we found

Overall, admissions to federal custody for older offenders have risen from **133** in *2012-13* to **171** in *2017-18*; a difference of **+38** (or +29%). When unpacking this increase by type of federal admission it is notable that the percentage of admissions to federal custody through

conditional release revocations has decreased from 26.3% in *2012-13* to 12.9% in *2017-18*. Consequently, some of the growth in the older offender population is due to the increase of new warrant of committal admissions from 94 in *2012-13* to 142 in *2017-18*; a difference of +48 (or 51%).

On the other hand, total older offender (65+) releases from federal custody have increased from **188** in *2012-13* to **288** in *2017-18*; a difference of +100 (or 53.2%). Again, unpacking total releases by type it is noteworthy that there has been a steady rise in day parole releases from **64** in *2012-13* to **141** in *2017-18*; a difference of **+47** (or +73.4%). While it appears that there has been a rise in older admissions, there has been a substantial increase in earlier releases on day parole resulting in less days spent incarcerated for a considerable portion of the population.

### National Population Flows: *2012-13 to 2017-18*

| Fiscal Year | Total Admissions | 65+ Admissions | Total Releases | 65+ Releases |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2012-13* | 8,069 | 133 | 7,845 | 188 |
| *2013-14* | 7,900 | 166 | 7,996 | 191 |
| *2014-15* | 7,397 | 165 | 7,827 | 206 |
| *2015-16* | 7,449 | 146 | 7,919 | 220 |
| *2016-17* | 7,154 | 177 | 7,837 | 231 |
| *2017-18* | 6,903 | 171 | 7,508 | 288 |

## What it means

Notwithstanding the fact that growth of the older offender population in federal custody has increased, it appears that more older persons are being released earlier in their sentence and managed safely in the community. The combined efforts at efficient preparation for safe release and effective case management have resulted in a sustained trend of more older offenders being released each year than admitted to federal custody.

## For more information

Please e-mail the Research Branch or contact us by phone at (613) 995-3975.

You can also visit the Research Publications section for a full list of reports and one-page summaries.

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