



Research Results Community Corrections

QUICK FACTS

Research shows that society is best protected when an offender is gradually reintegrated into the community under supervision, with appropriate monitoring and control. The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) promotes the safe return of offenders to the community through risk assessment, community supervision, appropriate accommodation and effective correctional programs and interventions.

OFFENDER POPULATION

- As of April 13, 2014, there were 7,668 federal offenders under community supervision.¹
- Since 2008-09, the number of supervised offenders has remained relatively stable.²
- In part because indeterminately-sentenced offenders remain under CSC's jurisdiction until their deaths, relative to offenders in custody, those in the community tended to be older and were more likely to be serving a life or indeterminate sentence.³ One-third of offenders under community supervision were aged 50 or older.⁴

CONDITIONAL RELEASE

- In 2012-13, grant rates of day and full parole increased five and 12 per cent, respectively, in comparison to 2010-11. Grant rates also increased for Aboriginal offenders for the third consecutive year.⁵
- Women offenders tended to serve a lower proportion of their sentences than men offenders before being

released on parole. Aboriginal offenders typically served a higher proportion of their sentence.⁶

- In the last decade, the rate of imposition of special conditions associated with conditional release increased. In particular, conditions requiring residence at a specific place, abstaining from alcohol and/or drugs, avoiding certain places, and those relating to mental health have increased the most.⁷

CONTINUITY OF CARE

- Men and women offenders with an opioid dependence who received opioid substitution treatment in the community upon release as well as prior to release were more successful in the community than were those who did not continue opioid substitution treatment in the community.⁸
- Similar patterns have been observed for certain correctional programs. For instance, women offenders who participated in both the institutional and the community components of a program focused on substance abuse had more positive community outcomes than did those who participated only in the institutional component.⁹

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

- Offenders who obtained community employment were almost three times less likely to be revoked with a new offence than those who were not employed. In turn, a number of CSC initiatives, including CORCAN employment, vocational certification, and the use of Community Employment

¹ Offender Management System (April 13, 2014).

² Public Safety Canada. (2014). [Corrections and conditional release statistical overview: Annual report 2013](#). Ottawa, ON: Author.

³ Offender Management System (April 13, 2014).

⁴ Gobeil (2014). [Older offenders in community-based residential facilities](#). Research Snippet RS 14-1. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

⁵ Offender Management System (April 13, 2014).

⁶ Offender Management System (April 13, 2014).

⁷ Ritchie, Saddleback, & Gobeil (2014). [Special conditions and post-release outcomes over time](#). Research Snippet RS 14-17. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

⁸ MacSwain, Farrell MacDonald, & Chevreil (2014). [Post release outcomes of methadone maintenance treatment program \(MMTP\) participants: A comparative study](#). Research Report R-322. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

⁹ Matheson, Doherty, & Grant (2009). [Women offender substance abuse programming & community reintegration](#). Research Report R-202. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.





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Centres, contributed to greater rates of community employment.¹⁰

- Ethnocultural offenders, with the exception of Black and Latin American offenders, were more likely to obtain community employment than White and Aboriginal offenders.¹¹

OFFENDERS UNLAWFULLY AT LARGE

- In one study, 22 per cent of offenders released over a three-year period were unlawfully at large at least once in the first year following release. Half of these offenders were returned to custody within one week.¹²
- Compared to other offenders, offenders who were unlawfully at large were rated as presenting higher levels of risk and need, and lower levels of motivation and reintegration potential.¹³

RETURNS TO CUSTODY

- From 2008-09 to 2012-13, the successful completion rates of offenders on day parole, full parole, and statutory release all increased.¹⁴
- Even when offenders did return to custody, few re-offended. In 2012-13, less than two per cent of day parole releases, four per cent of full parole releases, and nine per cent of statutory releases

were terminated due to new offences. The large majority of these were non-violent offences.¹⁵

- The rate of conviction for violent offences while under community supervision declined in the last decade.¹⁶ When new violent offences occurred, they were most frequently assaults or robberies.¹⁷
- Rates of return to custody for offenders with Long Term Supervision Orders, both in general and due to a new offence, were less than half of those of offenders on statutory release.¹⁸
- Life-sentenced offenders were very likely to be successful on community supervision, and most who returned did so without a new offence. Life-sentenced offenders who returned to custody had challenges with attitudes, associates, and substance abuse.¹⁹
- Among men, the presence and severity of substance abuse problems was associated with higher rates of return to custody.²⁰ For those with moderate or severe problems, drug users were more likely than alcohol users to return to custody, both in general and due to new offences.²¹

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¹⁰ Nolan, Wilton, Cousineau, & Stewart (2014). [Outcomes of offender employment programs: Assessment of CORCAN participation](#) Research Report R-283. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

¹¹ Nolan & Power (2014). [A brief profile of the institutional and community employment activities of offenders belonging to visible minority groups](#). Research Snippet RS 13-4. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

¹² Axford (2010). [Profile of offenders readmitted for violent offences while on conditional release](#). Research Report R-288. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

¹³ Dunbar & Helmus (2014). [Unlawfully at large: A profile of federal offenders who breach conditional release](#). Research Report R-271. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

¹⁴ Offender Management System (April 13, 2014).

¹⁵ Offender Management System (April 13, 2014).

¹⁶ Offender Management System (April 13, 2014).

¹⁷ Axford (2010). [Profile of offenders readmitted for violent offences while on conditional release](#). Research Report R-288. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

¹⁸ Gobeil (2012). [Rates of return to custody for offenders with long term supervision orders \(LTSOs\)](#). Research Snippet RS 12-1. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada

¹⁹ Axford & Young (2012). [Community outcomes for offenders serving a life sentence](#). Research Report R-264. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

²⁰ Farrell MacDonald (2014). [Severity of substance use, discretionary release, and return to federal custody](#). Research Snippet RS 14-19. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

²¹ Cheverie, Ternes, & Farrell MacDonald (2014). [Characteristics, institutional adjustment, and post-release success of drug and alcohol users](#). Research Report R-299. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.