

CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.

Women Admissions to Federal Custody: 1995-96 to 2020-21

Over the past quarter century, admissions of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous women to federal custody have risen.

Why we are doing this study

In Canada, persons sentenced to serve two years or more by the courts are admitted to federal custody. While at year-end 2020-21 women represented 5.0% (618/12,396) of the federal custody population, the representation of Indigenous women at 43.2% (267/618) is concerning.

What we did

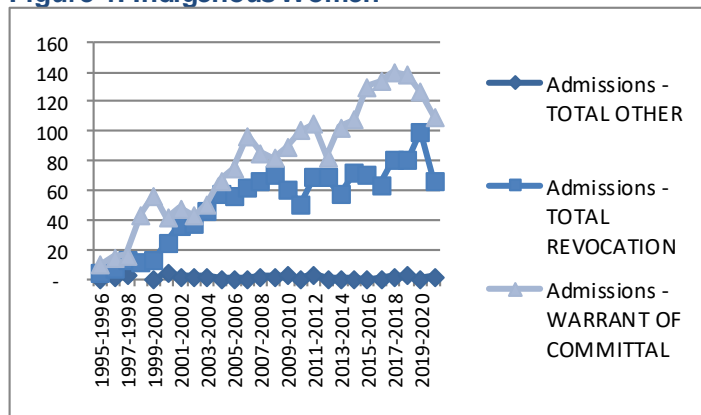
Over a twenty-five year period (1995-96 to 2020-21) there has been a total of 10,438 women admissions; 67.2% (7,010) admitted on a new warrant of committal, 30.1% (3,147) for a revocation of conditional release and 2.7% (281) for other reasons. Indigenous women accounted for 33.6% (3,504) and Non-Indigenous for 66.4% (6,934) of total women admissions from 1995-96 to 2020-21.

Among Indigenous women admissions, 60.0% (2,103) were admitted on a warrant of committal, 38.7% (1,356) were for a revocation of conditional release and 1.3% (45) for other reasons. With respect to Non-Indigenous women admissions; 70.8% (4,907) were admitted on a warrant of committal, 25.8% (1,791) were for revocation of conditional release and 3.4% (236) for other reasons.

What we found

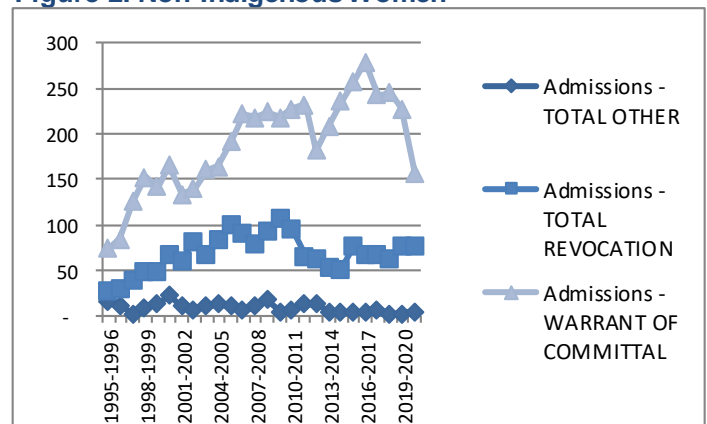
As reflected in the Figure 1 below, there has been a steady rise of Indigenous women being newly admitted to federal custody and revoked on conditional release over time.

Figure 1. Indigenous Women



As reflected in the Figure 2 below, there has also been a steady rise in the number of Non-Indigenous women newly admitted to federal custody. However, it appears that the number returned to federal custody on a revocation has plateaued over the past decade.

Figure 2. Non-Indigenous Women



What it means

The increasing numbers and proportions of Indigenous women being sentenced to federal custody over time point to the need for concerted upstream intervention efforts in the criminal justice system to break this trend line and reduce disproportionate representation. As well, the relatively higher percentage of Indigenous women being revoked on conditional release (38.7% versus 25.8%) suggests continuing to enhance community release supports.

For more information

Please e-mail the [Research Branch](#).

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

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