

## RESEARCH 2018-2019: A YEAR IN REVIEW





# Introduction

---

Welcome to the first issue of Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) “*Research 2018-2019: A Year in Review*”.

This year marks an important milestone for CSC’s Research Branch as the unit proudly celebrates 30 years of applied correctional research. Over the past 3 decades, CSC researchers have produced over 500 research publications and made important contributions to the field of corrections. The work of the Research Branch has helped shape the Canadian correctional model and continues to support, inform and influence decision making across all levels of the organization.

Key to the unit’s function and contribution to the Service is the communication of research results in usable and understandable ways. In an applied correctional setting, it is helpful to think of research in practice as a process rather than products and to avoid thinking of decision making as a single event. Research evidence weaves in and out of the decision-making process and our role involves not only producing research that is relevant, meaningful and timely but also to ensure that individuals have that research in hand to inform discussions on policy, programs and operations.

CSC research is circulated to a broad range of audiences including CSC executives, operational managers and frontline staff as well as external stakeholders and the general public. In doing so, we recognize that in order for research to be translated into practice, it needs to be interpreted in a way that is meaningful to the operational setting. This means that the answer to the question “what does it mean” may vary depending on the audience and the role and responsibilities of the reader. For instance, results of a study may have different implications for a discussion at the executive table as they would to decision making at the case management level. Continuous and ongoing informal exchanges of knowledge and information, discussions of research findings and operations, and engagement with internal and external partners is critical to maximizing the potential reach, use and impact of the information gleaned from research.

As we continue to expand our correctional knowledge base, the new challenge becomes consistently building on previous work and effectively managing, organizing, consolidating and communicating research amassed over the years. We hope that this *Research 2018-2019 – A Year in Review* will help highlight some of the most recent research publications and will help promote continued engagement with both internal and external partners to help ensure research evidence is present to inform and influence the varied and complex correctional issues we face daily.

Larry Motiuk  
Assistant Commissioner  
Policy Sector

# Table of contents

Meet a Researcher.....6

Publication types.....8

## Correctional Operations Research

- RIB-17-05 - Employer Hiring and Retention of Offenders: Insights from Canadian Employers.....9
- ERR-18-01 - Offender Perspectives on Electronic Monitoring.....10
- ERR-18-02 - The Association of Age and Recidivism.....11
- R-408 - The Effectiveness of Simulated Firearms Training for Correctional Officer Recruits.....12
- R-414 - Revalidation of the Security Reclassification Scale (SRS).....13
- R-415 - Anti-Corruption Models and Elimination of Staff Involvement in Trafficking
- Contraband in Correctional Settings: Review of the Current Literature.....14
- R-419 - Implementation of the Electronic Monitoring Research Pilot.....15
- R-424 - Identifying the Community High Risk Population for Allocation of the Program Integrity Funding.....16

## Community Corrections Research

- RIB-18-08 - Correctional Performance in the Federal Offender Population.....,17
- RIB-18-10 - Comparison of Release Conditions for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Federal Men Offenders.....18
- RIB-18-12 - Double Bunking in Canadian Federal Corrections.....19
- RIB-18-13 - Processing Offender Grievances in Canadian Federal Corrections.....20
- RIB-18-15 - The Impact of Multiple Grievors in the Offender Redress Process.....21
- RIB-18-17 - Segregation Intervention Initiative: An Examination of the Impact on Offender Outcomes.....22

## Correctional Programs and Interventions Research

- R-402 - The Development and Delivery of a Scale for the Evaluation of Risk-Needs (SERN) in Romanian Probation Services.....23
- R-422 - Examining Change in Criminogenic Need Level Associated with Correctional Program Participation among Federally Sentenced Women.....24
- R-423 - The Use of Technology in the Delivery of Correctional Intervention Programs: A Rapid Review.....25

## Health and Mental Health Research

- R-404 - Comorbid Mental Disorders: Prevalence and Impact on Community Outcomes.....26
- R-409 - Mental Health Needs of Veterans in the Canadian Correctional System: A Brief Review.....27
- R-410 - An Examination of the Mental Health Continuum of Care.....28
- R-411 - Inter-rater Reliability and Concurrent Validity of the Mental Health Need Scale.....29
- R-420 - Prevalence of Mental Disorder among Federally Sentenced Women Offenders: In-Custody and Intake Samples..... 30

---

## Substance Abuse Research

- R-398 - Health and service access challenges for correctional offenders with mental health and substance use problems in transition from corrections to community – a literature review.....31
- R-421 - Application of Technological Advances in the Assessment and Treatment of Addiction in Corrections: A Systematic Review.....32

## Women Offenders Research

- RIB-18-03 - Women Convicted of Fraud-related Offences: A Profile.....33
- RIB-18-07 - Exploring the Shift in the Federal Women Offender Distribution.....34
- RIB-18-11 - Conditions of Release for Federal Women Offenders.....35
- R-394 - Minimum Security Women: A Profile.....36
- R-406 - National Prevalence of Mental Disorders among Federally Sentenced Women Offenders: In Custody Sample.....37
- R-412 - An Assessment of the Reliability and Validity of the Security Reclassification Scale for Women (SRSW).....38
- R-413 - Women Offender Assessment: Can Gender-Informed Variables Improve Risk Prediction?.....39
- R-416 - Women Who Sexually Offend: A Profile and Program Outcome Study.....40
- R-417 - Typologies of Sexual Offending of Federally-Sentenced Women: A Validation Study....41
- R-418 - Risk Factors Related to the Initial Security Classification of Women Offenders: A Literature Review.....42

## Special Reports

- SR-18-01 - 2018 International Survey of Correctional Services: Community Reintegration.....43
- SR-18-02 - Overdose Incidents in Federal Custody, 2012/2013 – 2016/2017.....44

## Offender Profiles and Forecasting Research

- RIB-18-04 - Examining the Case Characteristics of Federal Offenders in Administrative Segregation.....45
- RIB-18-05 - Forecasted and Actual Federal Custody Populations: 2017-2018.....46
- RIB-18-06 - Explaining the Decline in the Federal Custody Population.....47
- RIB-18-09 - Forecasted and Actual Federal Community Populations: 2017-2018.....48
- RIB-18-14 - Exploring Release Outcomes in the Romanian Prison Service.....49
- RIB-18-16 - Changes in the Size of the Federal Offender Population: 2000 to 2018.....50
- RIB-18-18 - Exploring “Inside-to-Outside” Ratios in Federal Corrections.....51
- R-407 - Profiling Escapes from Federal Custody 2011/2012 - 2016/2017.....52

## Need more Information? .....53

# Meet a researcher

## Kaitlyn Wardrop

---

For many students finishing their post-secondary degrees, becoming a public servant – and working for corrections in particular – isn't the most obvious choice of careers.

That was the case for Kaitlyn Wardrop, a research officer with the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and graduate student currently pursuing her PhD in Experimental Psychology at Carleton University.

"I was in second year of my undergrad, I was taking any psych course I could get my hands on, and ended up taking a forensic psychology class and I thought it was really interesting," she says. "We got to the point in the course where the lecture was focused on risk assessment and that really sealed the deal for me in terms of figuring out, 'this is what I'm actually interested in, this is what I want to pursue' ... we can take a look at what's going on in an offender's life and who they are as a person, and we can use that information to predict how they'll do in the community, and that can inform what interventions we should be providing to them."



Kaitlyn Wardrop, CSC Research

After doing a practicum with CSC's Research Branch during her Master's degree, Kaitlyn entered the public service through the Federal Student Work Exchange Program (FSWEP) and was hired in her current position almost two years ago. She works with the interventions and women offender unit, doing research on correctional programs and women offenders.

"[The public service] wasn't what I was expecting ... when you're that age, you don't know what government work even is – I had no idea what it was," Kaitlyn explains. "I certainly got a lot of flack from my family because none of them work in the public service and I think there's the misconception that government workers don't do anything, they're just there for the paycheque, but I certainly haven't seen that while I've been here ... it's so much fun. It's the best job in the world. It's so nice to work in an organization that values research as much as CSC does. Each one of [my colleagues] is passionate about research, they're passionate about the work that CSC does in general, and there are so many people within the Research Branch that are a resource for me."

Kaitlyn's academic research focuses on parole decision-making and community supervision. She looks at how parole boards, primarily in the U.S., use evidence-based practices to make parole decisions for offenders and how other boards can be encouraged to do the same. She also studies community supervision and how to equip parole officers with the tools they need to do their jobs.

At CSC, Kaitlyn says she's already seeing first-hand how research can be used in staff's day-to-day work. Last year, for example, some of her CSC colleagues were looking for information on the needs of Inuit offenders for an Inuit-specific correctional program they were developing. Kaitlyn was able to put together a profile, based on information collected in the Offender Management System, to support the program being created.

“It was so nice to do this research, look at who these people are and what needs to be addressed, and to have that actually inform something in practice,” she says.

Moving forward, Kaitlyn will help develop a gender-informed risk assessment tool for women. It will be used to look at how risk and need factors may be different for women offenders and create a more accurate picture of how women offenders are doing.

“In the past, we used the same risk assessment tool for every offender,” Kaitlyn explains. “Now there’s a lot more discussion, both within the academic circles and correctional staff circles and even within the public because it’s hitting the news a lot, talking about how there may be certain risk or need factors that are different for one group of people versus another.”

Coming originally from academia, and as one of the Research Branch’s youngest employees, Kaitlyn has seen the challenges that younger candidates can face with trying to enter the public service and the long, sometimes complicated competition process. Even the Clerk of the Privy Council Office, Michael Wernick, noted in his latest [annual report](#) that attracting new talent is critical as a generation of public servants begins to retire in large numbers.

“We are very fortunate to have such a competent and enthusiastic employee [in Kaitlyn],” says Lynn Stewart, CSC’s Senior Research Manager for Interventions and Women Offenders Research. “It speaks well for the future of government research that we can attract this kind of talent and that we are able to offer full-time employment and a career path.”

Simplifying the recruitment process for post-secondary students and increasing outreach to post-secondary institutions, including guest lectures by CSC staff and attending university conferences, could be other ways to access young people looking for opportunities and to give some guidance on career options like CSC, Kaitlyn suggests.

“I was incredibly fortunate that I got in through FSWEF,” she says. “There must be a lot of people out there who are highly skilled and would be a good fit for the job but it’s just too much work to get in.”

Though government research may not be the most obvious career path for some, it can be a great option for graduate students who aren’t able to secure a teaching or academic position and who don’t have enough experience to work as an independent consultant, Kaitlyn says.

The other benefit of government research is that it’s “so applied,” she continues. “You can see the impact of what you do, versus doing something in the academic setting, publishing it in a peer-reviewed journal that only other academics can access. Being able to do research, communicate directly to staff members who may be impacted by it, and then have it published publicly so that anyone can access is so refreshing.”

More than anything, Kaitlyn says, it’s the potential to make a difference in the lives of people who are trying to turn their lives around.

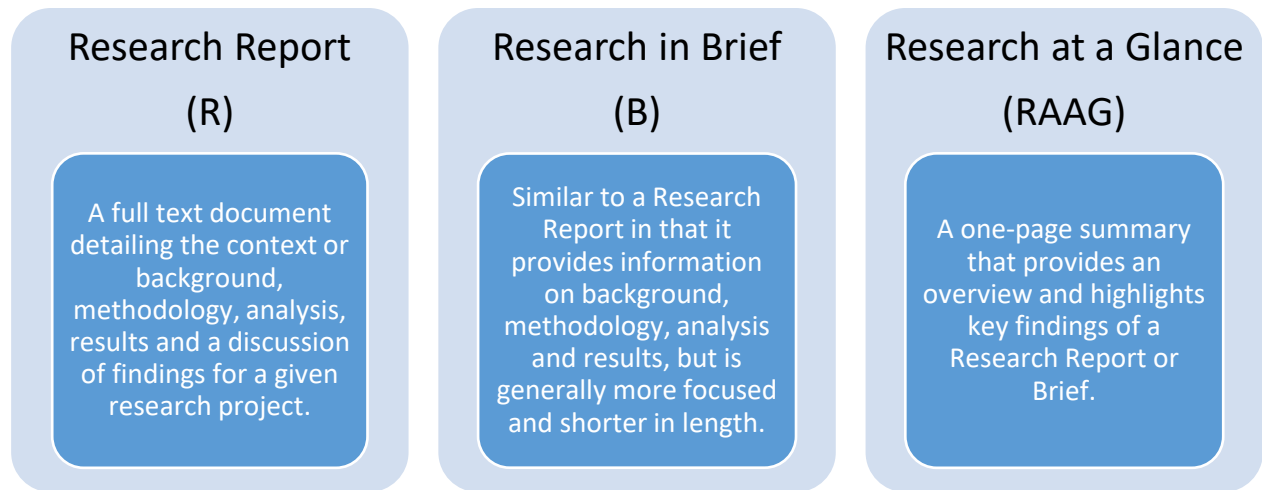
“The most meaningful aspect of doing [this] research is that we’re dealing with real people,” she says. “The impact that we can have on real people is huge if we do our jobs well.”

---

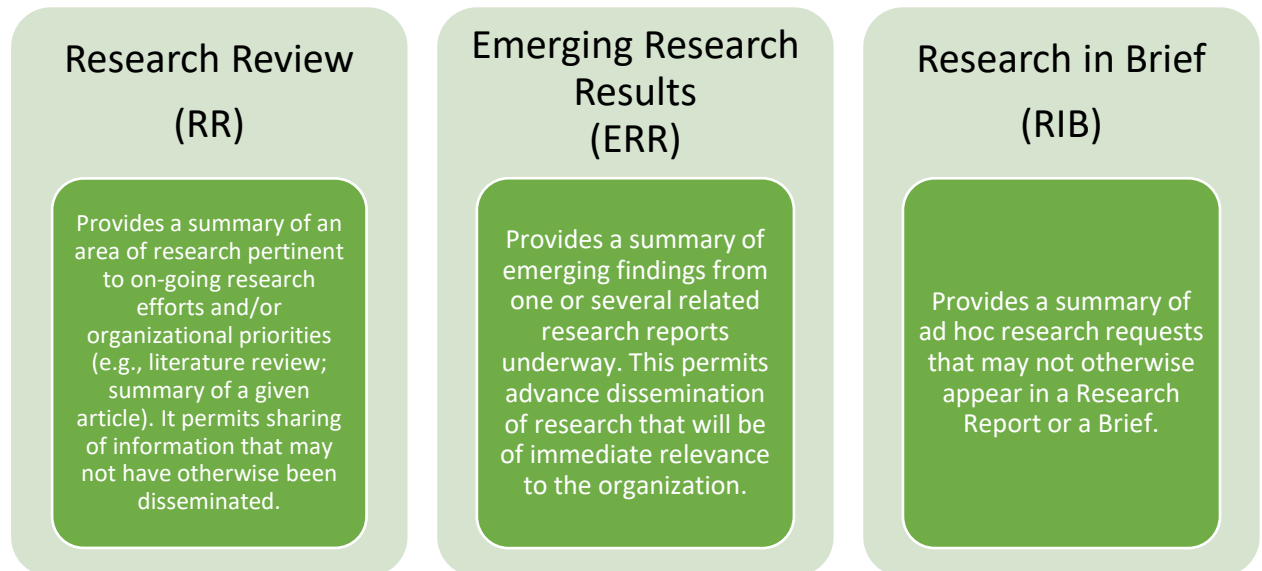
## Publication Types

---

### **Publications with associated full reports:**



### **Standalone one-page summaries:**





# RIB-17-05 - Employer Hiring and Retention of Offenders: Insights from Canadian Employers

*Employers find that with the right work ethic and training, hiring offenders can benefit companies and communities.*

## Why we did this study

This study was conducted by researchers at Washington State University in collaboration with the Research Branch. The objective was to learn more about employer experience in the hiring and retention of offenders released from incarceration. The researcher worked directly with Community Employment Centres in the Pacific (Vancouver) and Prairie (Calgary, Edmonton) regions to identify potential employers to interview for the project.

## What we did

Twenty-six employers who had previously hired offenders within the past 3-5 years were interviewed for the project. The employers were located in Calgary, Edmonton, Kelowna, Prince George, Vancouver, and on Vancouver Island. Three primary questions guided the interviews: (1) what are the primary motivations for employers to hire offenders? (2) What factors seem to be associated with the successful hiring and retention of offenders? (3) What challenges do employers face, and how are employers addressing these challenges? Interviews followed a semi-structured format. The interviews were recorded, transcribed, and then analyzed using qualitative methods that identified emergent themes related to these questions.

## What we found

When asked what motivates them to hire offenders, employer responses fell into two broad themes. The first, which was especially prevalent amongst organizations involved in construction, is that they needed individuals willing to take on tough jobs in low-skill areas. The second broad motivation was a belief in second chances and a desire to give back to the community in some way. Even for employers who emphasized the need to hire for hard to fill job positions as a primary motivation, many also noted that everybody makes mistakes in their lives and deserve a second chance.

Employers described a number of characteristics of offenders that they believed allow these individuals to

succeed in the workplace. First, the most common characteristic is having a positive work ethic – being willing to work hard, take initiative and show a genuine interest in contributing, and showing up to work consistently and on time. A second characteristic is that these individuals must be able to work well with others. Many of the employers interviewed have small crews or teams working closely together, so a cooperative work ethic is critical. A third characteristic relates to offenders feeling that they are supported by supervisors, co-workers, and the company.

Interviews with employers highlighted a number of challenges such as hiring individuals with important soft skills (e.g., work attitudes) and managing risks of ex-offenders returning to prior behaviors and addictions. Many employers emphasized the value of working with Community Employment Centre (CEC) staff to address these challenges, for example by screening individuals for job openings and tracking and following-up with offenders.

## What it means

Employers were quite positive in their assessment of the support provided by the CECs. They suggested CECs could do more outreach to employers to let them know about their services. Employers also saw value in CECs taking a lead role in creating regional networks that would bring employers and other stakeholders together to share experiences and ideas to advance the hiring and retention of offenders.

## 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.

**Prepared by:** Jerry Goodstein, Department of Management, Information Systems and Entrepreneurship, Washington State University [jgoodstein@wsu.edu](mailto:jgoodstein@wsu.edu)

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

## ERR-18-01 - Offender Perspectives on Electronic Monitoring

*Though physically uncomfortable, EM is reported by offenders to positively impact their compliance with conditions.*

### Why we are doing this study

As part of the Correctional Service of Canada's Electronic Monitoring (EM) Research Pilot, EM provides a discretionary tool available to parole officers for moderate and high risk offenders who receive a special geographic condition and/or a curfew order. This multi-year project examines the effects of EM on offenders, staff, and stakeholders, as well as on community supervision practices and public safety.

Previous research (Hanby & Nelson, 2017) found that EM is not viewed by staff to negatively impact the daily lives or relationships of offenders. This report focuses on offenders' perspectives and presents preliminary findings regarding the impact of EM on compliance with conditions and programming, on daily lives and relationships, and physical impacts of the devices.

### What we are doing

Offenders who had been monitored using EM for a minimum of two weeks were invited to complete a questionnaire. A total of 171 offenders participated between the implementation of the pilot in July 2015 and December 2017. The sample consisted of 163 men and 8 women, and 152 non-Indigenous and 19 Indigenous offenders. Approximately half of the offenders had successfully completed their EM term (52%), while 39% had been removed from EM and 9% were still active on EM. Early removals from EM were typically due to suspension or a decision by the case management team.

### What we have found so far

The majority of offenders reported that EM had no impact on their ability to comply with their conditions and programming. However, substantial proportions of offenders reported that EM did have a positive impact in increasing their ability to abide by geographic/curfew conditions (31%), avoid committing a new offence (18%), and accept responsibilities for their actions (31%).

Most offenders reported that EM had either a negative impact or no impact on various aspects of their daily lives and relationships. The main areas of concern where EM was reported by offenders to have a negative impact were in the quality of job they could get (32%) and their ability to find a job (30%), as well as their relationships with their spouse/partner (29%) and friends (28%). These findings are inconsistent with staff perspectives (Hanby & Nelson, 2017), highlighting the importance of the multi-method research design utilized in the pilot.

The physical impacts of the devices reported by offenders were consistently negative. The majority of offenders reported that the EM device was physically uncomfortable (80%). Further, 59% agreed that the EM device physically got in the way of daily tasks and 43% agreed that it physically interfered with their job tasks.

### What it means

The findings of this research suggest that EM has the potential to influence the behaviour of offenders by creating a digital footprint of their whereabouts. This provides offenders with an opportunity to increase accountability and build credibility by demonstrating adherence to their geographical conditions.

Given the feedback received by offenders on the physical impacts of the EM device, the utilization of more comfortable and discrete devices should be explored by CSC. This may also result in less negative impacts on offenders' daily lives and relationships.

### Reference

Hanby, L. & Nelson, A. (2017). *Staff Perspectives on the EM Research Pilot* (ERR 16-25). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

### 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.

**Prepared by:** Laura Hanby & Laurentiu Cociu

**EMERGING RESEARCH RESULTS**

## ERR-18-02 - The Association of Age and Recidivism

*Recent research in CSC confirms the well-established finding of a linear decline in recidivism with age.*

### Why we are doing this study

Previous research has shown that the recidivism rates vary based on key offender profile variables such as age and gender. Population analysis shows that the mean age of federal offenders in Canada has been increasing with possible implications for case management. This analysis, part of a larger recidivism study, summarizes recent findings associating various age bands with measures of recidivism.

### What we are doing

A release cohort from 2007 to 2012 of 27,066 federal offenders was selected. Revocation and revocation with an offence outcomes following the first release on their sentences were examined for the men (N = 21,915) and women (N = 1,748).

### What we have found so far

Table 1 presents the results for all federal offenders. A clear linear relationship between age and returns to custody and returns with an offence is evident. Although the numbers are small the pattern also applies to violent reoffending. Women's rates of reoffending are lower, but in general, a similar pattern is evident (Table 2). Further disaggregation by Indigenous identity also demonstrated a pattern of younger offenders doing more poorly than older offenders.

**Table 1. Release outcomes by age group at release (N = 21,915) for the 2007-2012 cohort**

Age at Release	Any Return to Custody %	Any Revocation with Offence %	Revocation with Schedule 1 or Homicide Offence %	Revocation with a Schedule 1 Sexual Offence %
Under 25	57.8	19.2	3.6	-
25 to 30	52.1	15.1	2.5	0.1
30 to 35	48.5	13.1	2.4	0.2
35 to 40	47.8	12.7	2.6	0.2
40 to 45	45.9	10.6	1.9	-
45 to 50	40.3	9.3	1.6	-
50 to 55	32.8	7.1	1.3	-
> 55	17.9	3.4	1.0	-

Note. Results with a frequency of less than 5 are suppressed. Results are for the period offenders are under a federal warrant.

**Table 2. Release outcomes by age group at release for the 2007-2012 cohort (N = 1,748): Federally sentenced women**

Age Group at Release	Any Return to Custody %	Any Revocation with Offence %
Less than 25	47.2	14.0
25 to 30	46.3	11.9
30 to 35	38.8	9.5
35 to 40	38.7	7.1
40 to 45	38.5	11.2
45 to 50	35.1	6.6
50 to 55	24.4	8.1
55 and older	12.1	1.7

The results are most striking when comparing the results for offenders in the youngest and oldest age bands. Federal offenders under 25 are almost 6 times more likely to return to custody with a new offence than those over 55 while they are under warrant. When we examined the rates of recidivism using a fixed 6-month follow-up the relationship of age and recidivism for both the general population and for women was even stronger.

### What it means

The age-offending curve is a well-established finding in criminology. This research confirms the pattern in CSC. The average age of offenders in CSC have been gradually increasing and is now 40 years. This suggests that an older population is likely to produce lower recidivism rates and better corporate results compared to previous years.

### 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.

Prepared by: Lynn Stewart and Geoff Wilton

**EMERGING RESEARCH RESULTS**

## R-408 - The Effectiveness of Simulated Firearms Training for Correctional Officer Recruits

*Simulated firearms training produces comparable outcomes to live fire training for Correctional Officer Recruits.*

### Why we did this study

Simulated firearms training has recently been piloted by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) for Correctional Officer recruits. This innovative training method involves the use of laser-based technology in a simulated environment, and has effectively been utilized in military and law enforcement settings. Unlike live fire training, no ammunition is required and can result in increased safety, more efficient training and cost savings for organizations.

The purpose of this study was to determine the effectiveness of 9mm pistol training delivered in a simulated environment, in comparison to the traditional method of live fire training.

### What we did

An experimental group of CSC Correctional Officer recruits who received only simulated firearms training were compared to a control group who received primarily live fire training. Outcomes related to theoretical understanding, accuracy, as well as safety and handling were compared between groups during benchmark sessions and final qualification examinations. Individual related characteristics and anxiety levels were also explored to determine their influence on qualification outcomes.

### What we found

Recruits trained in a simulated environment had significantly lower scores on accuracy at the second benchmark session and final qualification. Despite these differences in scores, the overall pass/fail rates did not differ between training modalities. In other terms, there were no differences between the experimental or the control group in meeting the shooting standard. Ultimately, the proportion of recruits passing and failing training has more resource implications than scores on individual evaluation components.

Recruits trained using simulated firearms had higher scores on safety and handling at the final qualification examination, compared to their counterparts. For the simulated firearms group, additional classroom time was dedicated to teaching recruits the firearms manipulations required to meet safety and handling requirements. It appears that the modification made to classroom time

was adequate to ensure that recruits gained a comprehensive understanding of firearms manipulations, and were able to apply this knowledge in a live fire setting.

The recruit's gender and grip strength demonstrated the strongest correlations with most of the accuracy components of the evaluations. These variables often had more influence on qualification outcomes than the type of training. No differences were observed in Somatic Anxiety or Cognitive Anxiety between recruits who received simulated firearms training and recruits who received primarily live fire training. However, recruits trained in the simulated firearms environment reported lower levels of Self-Confidence at each of the evaluation sessions. Despite this, the recruits still met the qualification standard to pass each of the evaluations.

### What it means

The findings of this study suggest that simulated firearms training may be an appropriate alternative or addition to existing training for correctional officer recruits. This training modality offers a viable option to facilitate and reduce costs for CSC's firearms training program.

The ideal combination of simulated firearms and live fire training remains to be determined, as the opportunity exists to balance classroom time, simulated firearms and live fire training to optimize positive outcomes for recruits. Future research will also examine the extent to which firearms skills are retained one year after training and if skill retention differs between type of training received.

### For more information

Hanby, L & Selvendren, L. (2018). *The Effectiveness of Simulated Firearms Training for Correctional Officer Recruits* (Research Report R-408). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## R-414 - Revalidation of the Security Reclassification Scale (SRS)

*The Security Reclassification Scale continues to be a reliable and valid tool for offender security reclassification.*

### Why we did this study

Classification and re-classification systems play an integral role in correctional environments both at the institutional and offender level. The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) uses the Security Reclassification Scale (SRS) instrument in the security reclassification process for all men offenders. To ensure these tools are effective and adequately meeting the needs of the offender population, research must continue to test their reliability and validity.

### What we did

Using data from the Offender Management System, 6,281 SRS assessments (28% for Indigenous offenders) were examined for the study period from April 2014 to March 2016. These assessments represented 5,433 federal men offenders (27% Indigenous); 26% of men offenders had multiple assessments during the study period. Analyses were disaggregated by Indigenous ancestry.

### What we found

Similar proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders were assessed at the various security levels, with almost two-thirds identified as medium security and about one-quarter assessed as minimum. On average, SRS assessments were completed within two years of the completion of the Custody Rating Scale or after admission to federal custody, which met the timelines set out in CSC policy. Timing of SRS administration was the same for Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders.

Over one-quarter of offenders had scores that fell in the discretionary ranges (i.e., a score where the offender was able to be classified in one of two security levels), but for almost two-thirds of these assessments, staff did not employ the discretionary range; less than one-quarter were to a higher security level and 14% to a lower level.

Inconsistencies occurred when the SRS assessed level and either the caseworker recommendation or the actual security placement did not align. About 15% of assessments were identified as discordant, which is within the 5% to 20% range of inconsistencies identified in the assessment literature, with over two-thirds to a lower security classification. Manual coding of the reasons for the inconsistencies showed that offenders' current behaviour, attitude, and identified needs were the typical rationales for these inconsistencies. Aboriginal

Social History factors were considered for Indigenous men for all inconsistency files coded. Examination of the use of discretionary ranges on the SRS and inconsistencies across the review process demonstrated comparable results for Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders.

The SRS was a reliable tool for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders. Over half of the items in the assessment had a moderate correlation to the total score and had an acceptable Cronbach's alpha coefficient for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders.

Validity analyses demonstrated that the SRS and the actual security placement are associated with other measures of offender risk and need as well as offender institutional and post-release behaviour. These findings were comparable for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders and were consistent with previous research.

### What it means

The SRS continues to be a reliable and valid tool in the offender security reclassification process for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous men. Aboriginal Social History informs security decisions for Indigenous offenders. Additional factors such as institutional adjustment, escape risk, and risk to public safety are also taken into consideration before a final security placement decision is made. Future research could explore the inclusion or exclusion of other items in the SRS. However, the on-going use of the SRS for the reclassification of federal men offenders is warranted.

### For more information

Farrell MacDonald, S., Beauchamp, T., Conley, C., Cociu, L., & Scott, T. (2018). *Revalidation of the Security Reclassification Scale (SRS)* (Research Report R-414). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

# R-415 - Anti-corruption Models and Elimination of Staff Involvement in Trafficking Contraband in Correctional Settings: Review of the Current Literature

*Experimental studies point to anti-corruption models that could reduce staff involvement in contraband in prison environments.*

## Why we did this study

In a 2017 survey of international correctional organizations conducted by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) staff involvement in trafficking contraband was identified as a key operational challenge among organizations responding to the survey. A review of the current research literature on anti-corruption models used in public agencies and law enforcement, and specific strategies employed to address correctional staff involvement in trafficking in contraband was commissioned by CSC to assess best practices in addressing corruption and staff involvement in trafficking contraband.

## What we did

A comprehensive search of academic research databases including journals, reports and books and publicly accessible international, and Canadian federal and provincial government databases was undertaken, employing the search terms “corruption”, “anti-corruption” “corrections” “correctional system” “prisons”, “correctional staff” “prison staff”, “law enforcement” “police” “anti-corruption models” “anti-corruption policies”, “contraband” and various combinations of terms. Search filters were used to retrieve only articles in English or translated into English and published in 2000 or later.

## What we found

At the international, national and institutional level, there is little evidence that multipurpose or specialized anti-corruption models and agencies are effective in reducing the prevalence of corrupt behaviour in public institutions. Similarly, there is little evidence that specialized units within institutions, including police organizations and correctional systems, have been effective in significantly reducing staff involvement in corrupt behaviour.

Control of contraband in correctional settings is made especially challenging by the porous nature of correctional environments and the strong demand for banned goods by offenders. Trafficking in contraband is identified as among the most serious threats to the effective operation of correctional systems, contributing directly to increased dangerousness and violence, sexual exploitation, drug trafficking and ill health, escape, organized crime activity and loss of public confidence in

the justice system. Ultimately, corruption among correctional staff undermines efforts to rehabilitate prisoners and to improve public safety and security. It is important to note however that staff involvement in trafficking in contraband represents only a small proportion of the contraband market in correctional environments.

Experimental studies of corrupt behavior show that (1) paying staff fair salaries (2) rotating staff assignments on a regular basis, (3) increasing the probability of detection of corrupt behaviour, (4) imposing severe penalties for corrupt behaviour, (5) offering a reward for “whistleblowing”, and an independent, top-down, confidential investigation process can be effective in mitigating corruption, and (6) increasing transparency and monitoring of public funds are effective in reducing corrupt behaviour.

## What it means

In combination with evidenced-based behavioural strategies to prevent corrupt behavior, the institutional environment must elucidate a clear code of conduct for staff, tools for the detection, reporting, investigation and prosecution of corrupt behaviour, and effective means of oversight and transparency. Reducing the individual motivation to engage in corrupt behaviour and establishing effective guardianship of the environment through monitoring, detection, investigation and prosecution may significantly reduce the prevalence of corrupt behavior, including contraband trafficking.

## For more information

Brown, G., & Hoffman, R. (2018). *Anti-corruption models and elimination of staff involvement in trafficking contraband in correctional settings: Review of the current literature*. (Research Report R-415). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

# R-419 - Implementation of the Electronic Monitoring Research Pilot

*Electronic Monitoring (EM) is being utilized appropriately by Parole Officers, but its availability has a limited influence on decision making.*

## Why we did this study

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) is conducting a national Electronic Monitoring (EM) Research Pilot to examine the effectiveness of EM in promoting positive community outcomes for federal offenders while maintaining public safety. This report focuses on the operational aspects of the pilot and EM's contribution to the decision-making processes of Parole Officers (POs), an area that has received little attention.

## What we did

Data for eligible EM offenders was collected between the July 27, 2015 implementation and March 31, 2017. During the study period, a total of 442 offenders were referred for EM, representing a total of 512 EM supervision periods.

A total of 294 EM Participants who had ever been active on EM were compared to a control group of 294 offenders matched on demographic characteristics (e.g., gender, Indigenous status), offence and risk information (e.g., sex offender status, reintegration potential), and release characteristics (e.g., region of supervision, supervision type, special conditions, residency). Staff with experience in EM ( $N = 221$ ) also had the opportunity to provide feedback on the pilot through an online questionnaire.

## What we found

As of March 31, 2017, there were 104 active EM supervision periods, 102 successfully completed periods, and 147 periods terminated early due to the offender being removed prior to the end of their term. The device was worn for a mean of 115.9 days ( $SD = 77.8$ ) for offenders who had successfully completed EM and 60.8 days ( $SD = 60.3$ ) for those who were removed early. Offenders are being removed from EM once case management staff are satisfied with the offenders' behaviour in the community.

While EM programs have often focused primarily on monitoring low-risk offenders, the referral criteria for the research pilot are restricted to moderate and high risk offenders in an effort to prevent a "net-widening" effect. The vast majority of offenders met the referral criteria established for the pilot. In the few cases where offenders were exempted from the eligibility requirements, there were case-specific considerations

that warranted their inclusion. The majority of staff had positive views of the referral criteria for the research pilot.

As one part of the overall community strategy, EM did not appear to contribute to decisions related to revocations or residency as the EM Participants and control group were similar in the percentage of revocations and the length of residency periods. Some differences were observed in suspensions, but none that reached significance. While the percentage of suspensions did not differ between groups, EM Participants were more likely to be suspended due to protection of society or to prevent a breach of conditions, versus due to a breach of conditions in the control group. This suggests that that POs may be utilizing information obtained through EM to suspend offenders prior to a breach occurring. EM Participants also had a slightly higher rate of suspensions that were cancelled, withdrawn, or expired, while the control group had a higher rate of suspensions that were issued or executed.

## What it means

The findings of this study suggest that EM is being utilized by POs appropriately as a discretionary tool to monitor supervision conditions. EM may be influencing the decision making of correctional staff in regards to suspensions (e.g., putting offenders on EM within a week of a suspension being cancelled or withdrawn), but not in other key areas of community supervision such as residency and revocations of release. However, none of the differences between groups reached significance and should be interpreted with caution. Future research will further examine the community supervision outcomes of EM Participants in more depth.

## For more information

Hanby, L., Nelson, A., & Farrell MacDonald, S. (2018). *Implementation of the Electronic Monitoring Research Pilot* (Research Report R-419). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## R-424 - Identifying the Community High Risk Population for Allocation of the Program Integrity Funding

*Risk models reliably identify the highest risk offenders in the community who require the highest level of service.*

### Why we did this study

The Correctional Service of Canada has been receiving funding since 2007 to improve results with high-risk offenders in the community. Currently, the districts receive equal funding and have been allowed flexibility on how to use it. A standardized and empirically based method was required to define the high-risk population that the funding should support. The goal was to allow for this funding to be incorporated into existing allocation mechanisms, promote successful reintegration, and ensure that interventions are targeted to high-risk populations in the community across the districts.

### What we did

A cohort of federally-sentenced offenders released in 2013 through 2017 were identified and followed for at least 30 days or until the period of data collection ended (September 23, 2018). The median number of days follow-up was 341 although these times varied by gender and Indigenous background. The cohort was split to include a development sample (70%) used to identify the variables that define the highest risk group and a validation sample (30%) to confirm these results. This resulted in a total N of 15,782 for the development sample and 6,772 for the validation sample. The most recent risk and need assessments were used to derive predictors based on previous research indicating their bidirectional relationship to offender outcomes. In addition to these assessments, age, release type, index offence type, index offence severities, number of offences on the sentence, instigating institutional incidents, institutional charges/misconducts, were included in the modeling. Flags or alerts that could be relevant (i.e., detention criteria flags, dangerous offender flags, security threat group, Section 84 releases) were assessed for their contribution to the outcome in the initial steps of the procedures.

Outcomes were assessed based on Offender Management System data on returns to federal custody with an offence. Different modeling approaches were tried for each offender group, namely Decision Tree Analysis, Random Forests, Gradient Boosting and Logistic Regression. Choice of the factors included in the final models was based on optimizing the risk ratio, the overall accuracy of the model (percent true positives and true negatives), the succinctness of the model, and in the reduction of false negatives, which meant a reduction in the misclassification of a high-risk offender as a low risk offender. The area under the Receiver Operating

Characteristic (ROC) curve for each of the models were reported (Area Under the Curve; AUC). Although not the primary goal of the project, a set of models was also developed to identify which offenders from each group were highest risk for returns to custody for any reason.

### What we found

The models reliably predicted the highest risk offenders. AUCs were in the moderate to high range and risk ratios demonstrated that the high-risk groups were 2 to 4 times more likely to reoffend than the average reoffending rate for the offender group. Of note, factors predicting reoffending and returns to custody for any reason that were common to the three offender groups included: the risk rating on the CRI, substance misuse rating on the DFIA-R and institutional misconducts. The high-risk groups identified through this research are for the most part (over 80%) already being supervised through the higher levels of community supervision (Levels I, A-Residency, and A).

### What it means

The findings highlight the importance of criminal history factors (CRI and institutional misconducts) in predicting returns to custody with an offence, but also other key criminogenic needs, especially substance misuse. Both the static factors and the dynamic factors included in the models reflect problems in self-control that can be mitigated with appropriate interventions. With respect to the RNR framework, identifying offenders at highest risk is the first step in the application of the risk principle. The next step is to deliver appropriate services of higher intensity to these high-risk offenders, the goal of the program integrity funding.

### For more information

Stewart, L.A., Hachouch, Y., & Wilton, G. (2018). *Identifying the community high-risk population for allocation of the Program Integrity Funding* (Research Report R-424). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**



# RIB-18-08 - Correctional Performance in the Federal Offender Population

*Improved correctional results for federal offenders are the product of effective case management and intervention.*

## Why we are doing this study

A “performance story” in federal corrections for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous offenders can be told through the standardized reporting of selected metrics. Correctional results may not be necessarily limited to but can be reflected by the following: *minimum security designations, educational upgrading, discretionary releases, reaching their sentence completion without readmission and not being re-admitted to federal custody within five years of sentence completion.* It is anticipated that sustained attention on performance results such as these will lead to more targeted interventions, and hopefully contribute to closing observed performance gaps between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous offenders to an appreciable degree.

## What we did

Correctional outcomes reflected in Correctional Service of Canada’s Offender Management System were extracted from the automated Corporate Reporting System-Modernized (CRS-M) and Performance Direct (PD) system. The CRS-M and PD systems standardize the historical reporting of a wide variety of metrics at the national and regional levels. Comparative data were drawn for two separate fiscal years (2015-16 and 2017-18) for both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous offenders.

## What we found

As reflected in the correctional results table, a number of reintegration levers are reflective of recent performance success for both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous offenders. Most notably, there are observed increases in minimum security designations, educational upgrades and discretionary releases.

While PD results show that, over the past two years, the percentage of Indigenous offenders who successfully reached their sentence expiry date without readmission has increased from 37.4% to 42.4% (or +13.7%), a wide performance gap still separates them from the Non-Indigenous (62.1% versus 66.4% in 2017-18). Although this gap has persisted over the years, the performance differentials between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous offenders appear to have ceased to widen between 2015-16 and 2017-18 (24.7% and 24.2%, respectively).<sup>1</sup>

Also noteworthy, the percentage of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous offenders not being re-admitted to federal

custody within five years of their sentence expiry continues to increase in this recent time period.

## Correctional Results: 2015-16 and 2017-18

Measure	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous		Overall	
	15-16	17-18	15-16	17-18	15-16	17-18
<b>Minimum Designations</b>	15.1 %	18.9 %	21.7 %	22.9 %	20.0 %	21.9 %
<b>Educational Upgrading</b>	56.4 %	60.6 %	55.3 %	55.1 %	56.7 %	55.6 %
<b>Discretionary Releases</b>	28.6 %	40.4 %	47.0 %	58.1 %	42.9 %	53.8 %
<b>Successful Sentence completion</b>	37.4 %	42.4 %	62.1 %	66.4 %	56.6 %	61.0 %
<b>Not re-admitted within 5 years</b>	76.2 %	79.0 %	84.4 %	87.4 %	82.8 %	85.7 %

## What it means

While correctional results are reflective of concerted efforts being made to improve reintegration results for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous offenders, more correctional intervention and community development work is needed to effectively moderate federal readmission rates.

<sup>1</sup> Motiuk, L. (2016). *Federal Indigenous and Non-Indigenous offenders reaching sentence completion.* Research in Brief 16-08, Correctional Service Canada.

## 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.

**Prepared by:** Larry Motiuk and Bruno Jean

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

# RIB-18-10 - Comparison of Release Conditions for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Federal Men Offenders

*Conditions to abstain from alcohol and/or drugs are associated with poorer post-release outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous men.*

## Why we did this study

Prior research indicated that the number of special conditions imposed on federal offenders on conditional release increased from 2000 to 2011, which was associated with a small increase in the rate of suspensions and returns to custody for Indigenous men<sup>1</sup>. What is more, the impact of specific conditions had either a positive or negative impact on their rates of returns to custody depending on the type of condition<sup>2</sup>. The current study examined the pattern of conditions imposed for federal Indigenous and non-Indigenous men offenders and their impact on release outcomes.

## What we did

Men on their first conditional release between April 2013 and March 2017 were included in this study. Overall, 17,952 men were released; 21% ( $n = 3,849$ ) were Indigenous (14% First Nations, 6% Métis, and 1% Inuit). Release conditions imposed within 90 days prior to release were examined. Patterns of conditions and their impact on suspensions and returns to custody were explored.

## What we found

Most men had release conditions (99%).<sup>3</sup> Indigenous men were more likely to have an abstain from alcohol/drugs, follow treatment/programming plan, or a residency condition while non-Indigenous men were more likely to have an "other"<sup>4</sup> condition imposed. On average, men had five conditions. Indigenous men were more likely to have five or more conditions than non-Indigenous men (61% versus 40%).<sup>5</sup> Indigenous men had a higher risk profile at release and were more likely to be on statutory release.

*Suspensions.* Overall, 70% of Indigenous and 46% of non-Indigenous men with release conditions were suspended.

Controlling for time at risk and other factors,<sup>6</sup> alcohol/drug related conditions were the only condition type that was associated with the rate of suspensions for

Indigenous men; alcohol/drug, avoid certain persons, treatment/ programming, and residency conditions were associated with suspensions for non-Indigenous men.

*Returns to Custody.* Over half (53%) of Indigenous and 30% of non-Indigenous men with conditions returned to custody. Analysis controlling for time at risk and other factors<sup>5</sup> demonstrated that alcohol/ drug conditions were associated with returns for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous men while residency conditions and the number of conditions were associated for non-Indigenous offenders only.

## What it means

Almost all men had special release conditions. Imposition of conditions related to abstaining from substance use was associated with poorer post-release outcomes for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous men. These findings demonstrate that substance misuse has a particular impact on offenders' post-release success. Given that relapse episodes for those with substance misuse issues are common, ensuring offenders are connected to substance use related interventions and other supports that address their substance use issues on release may enhance the Correctional Service of Canada's risk management practices and thereby reduce post release returns to 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.

Prepared by: Shanna Farrell MacDonald

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

<sup>1</sup> Ritchie, M., Saddleback, C., & Gobeil, R. (2014). *Special conditions and post-release outcomes over time* (RS 14-17). Ottawa, ON: CSC.

<sup>2</sup> Thompson, J., Forrester, T.K., & Stewart, L.A. (2015). Factors related to community supervision outcomes: Revocations (R-304). Ottawa, ON: CSC.

<sup>3</sup> Seventy-five men did not have release conditions.

<sup>4</sup> Other conditions include reporting to police, abstaining from driving, avoid gambling/gambling establishments, reporting relationships, financial restrictions, computer and telecommunication restrictions, etc.

<sup>5</sup> In total, 332 men had 10-14 release conditions; 68% of there were released in Ontario while 84% were released on statutory release and 48% were sex offenders. Manual file coding for five randomly selected men indicated that they had entrenched criminal histories, had not fully addressed their criminogenic risk prior to release, and required structured supervision.

<sup>6</sup> Other factors controlled for in the survival analysis were: security classification at release, release type, dynamic factor rating, static factor rating, reintegration potential, motivation level, criminogenic need areas, releasing region, age at release, sentence number, and sentence length.

## RIB-18-12 - Double-bunking in Canadian Federal Corrections

*Improved correctional results and increased capacity have dramatically reduced the double bunking of federal offenders.*

### Why we are doing this study

According to some previous reports, the Canadian federal correctional system was facing a long-term overcrowding crisis and would thereby be forced into housing offenders in shared cells (“double-bunking”). However, sustained and focused efforts directed at improving correctional results (earlier releases and fewer returns) combined with expanded accommodation have reversed that projection.

### What we did

Shared accommodation (“double-bunking”) rates reflected in the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) were extracted from the automated Corporate Reporting System-Modernized (CRS-M) Capacity module for Double Bunking Rates. The CRS-M system standardizes the historical reporting of a wide variety of metrics at the national and regional levels. Comparative data on double bunked offenders were drawn for six separate fiscal year-ends (2012-13 to 2017-18) for federal in-custody offenders.

### What we found

By fiscal year-end of 2012-13 (March 26, 2013), there were more offenders in federal custody than the number of available single cells (15,225 actual count/14,807 rated capacity). This had resulted in capacity shortfalls at some institutions necessitating double-bunking at a national rate of 20.8%. Over the past five years, there has been a steady and significant reduction in the number of double-bunked offenders from 3,050 (or 20.8%) at year-end in 2012-13 to 748 (or 5.5%) in 2017-18; a decline of -2,302 (or -75%) double bunked offenders.

### Double-bunked Offenders: 2012-13 to 2017-18

Fiscal Year-end	Double Bunked #	Double Bunk Rates %
2012-13	3,050	20.8
2013-14	2,802	19.1
2014-15	2,062	14.3
2015-16	1,508	10.6
2016-17	1,094	8.0
2017-18	748	5.5

As reflected below in the double-bunking rates table, all five administrative regions of CSC have observed a significant drop in the number of percentage of offenders being held in a cell designed for one. Also noteworthy, in 2017-18, slightly more than a third of those double-bunked were also held in reception which is temporary.

### Regional Distribution of Double-bunked Offenders

Region	Double-bunked Offenders #		Double-Bunk Rates %	
	2012-13	2017-18	2012-13	2017-18
<b>Atlantic</b>	156	4	10.8	0.3
<b>Quebec</b>	602	294	17.7	10.1
<b>Ontario</b>	1,190	214	29.0	6.1
<b>Prairies</b>	998	202	26.0	5.3
<b>Pacific</b>	104	34	5.5	1.6
<b>National</b>	3,050	748	20.8	5.5

### What it means

The administration of population management strategies in CSC involves the use of single occupancy when feasible and ensuring that double bunking, which is the practice of holding two offenders in a cell designed for one, remains a temporary accommodation measure. Over recent years the practice has been substantially reduced, a trend it appears that will likely continue into the near future.

### 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.

Prepared by: Larry Motiuk

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

# RIB-18-13 - Processing Offender Grievances in Canadian Federal Corrections

*Improved efficiencies and increased capacity have dramatically reduced the backlog of offender grievances at the final level.*

## Why we are doing this study

A recent Internal 'Audit of Offender Redress' in the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) noted that the complaints and grievance process as outlined in the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* provides offenders with a pro-social means of resolving issues when they are dissatisfied with an action or decision. Consequently, it was posited that an effective process can alleviate offender animosity thereby impacting the safety of institutions. While the internal audit found that mechanisms were in place to oversee and plan for the remediation of a grievance backlog at the national level, reporting on and demonstrating progress was still required.

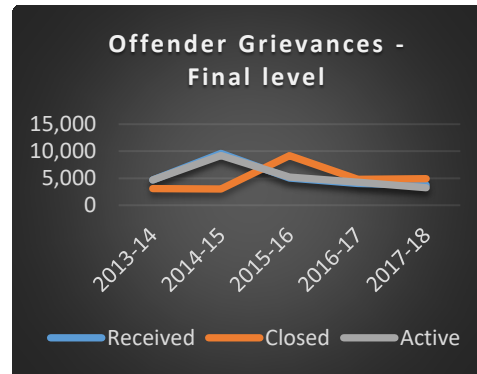
## What we did

The average populations under the jurisdiction of CSC were drawn for five separate fiscal years (2013-14 to 2017-18) from the automated Corporate Reporting System-Modernized (CRS-M) Capacity module. The CRS-M system standardizes the historical reporting of a wide variety of metrics at the national and regional levels.

Offenders submit final grievances for a variety of reasons, ranging from discrimination and use of force to staff performance and food services. These offender grievances are assigned a code in the Offender Management System (OMS) and submitted to an Offender Redress division at CSC National Headquarters (NHQ) for decision. For fiscal years 2013-14 to 2017-18 final level grievance data (received, closed and active) were extracted from the Reports of Automated Data Applied to Reintegration (RADAR) – Portal on Results, Information, Measurement and Evaluation (PRIME) application.

## What we found

As reflected in the chart and table below, the number of active final grievance files peaked at 9,205 in 2014-15 and declined steadily to 3,245 in 2017-18. Notwithstanding the internal efficiencies implemented and additional resources obtained to address the backlog, it would appear that from 2016-17 (4,245 active files) to 2017-18 (3,245 active files) that the active case load diminished by 1,000 (or 24%) in one year.



Grievance Metrics – Final Level

Fiscal Year	Average Population	Received	Closed	Active
2013-14	22,969	4,696	3,106	4,689
2014-15	22,958	9,597	3,010	9,205
2015-16	22,872	5,023	9,181	5,237
2016-17	22,882	4,014	4,805	4,245
2017-18	23,060	3,741	4,930	3,245
<b>Total</b>		27,071	25,032	

## What it means

The steady decrease in active grievance files is expected to continue, as this trend reflects CSC's concerted efforts to reduce the backlog. These efforts include the development of internal efficiency strategies (triaging grievances by date and type, creating specialized teams and restructuring management practices) combined with additional resources.

## 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.

Prepared by: Larry Motiuk and Andre Arnet-Zargarian

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

# RIB-18-15 - The Impact of Multiple Grievors in the Offender Redress Process

*A small number of multiple grievors contribute substantially to the offender redress process at the final level.*

## Why we are doing this study

Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) administers an internal offender redress process mandated by the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA) to fairly and expeditiously resolve grievances on a variety of matters within the jurisdiction of federal corrections. Recent research has found that internal efficiency strategies and expanded administrative capacity significantly reduced a persistent backlog of active final grievances.<sup>7</sup> However, studying the impact of those who actually submit a grievance to the final level is an important step towards ensuring that the offender redress process is fair, expeditious, sustainable and cost-effective.

## What we did

Corporate data between Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 and 2017-18 were extracted from CSC's Offender Management System on the following: 1) the offender population under federal jurisdiction, 2) the number of final level grievances received at CSC's National Headquarters and 3) the number of offenders who submitted one or more grievance(s). To estimate the impact that individual offenders have had on the grievance process, the number of final level submissions received from the top one, five and ten offenders were examined.

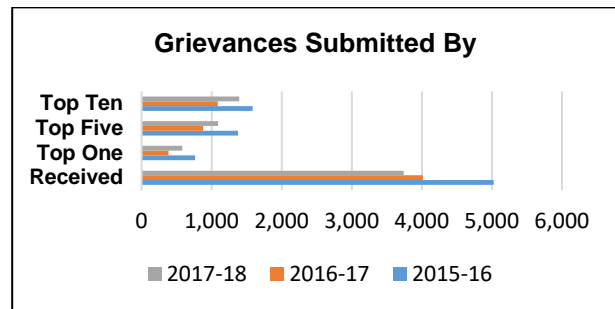
## What we found

As reflected in the table below, between FY 2015-16 and 2017-18, CSC National Headquarters received 12,778 final level grievances, however, these were found to have been submitted by 3,820 individual offenders. As displayed in the figure, there were substantial contributions in which some offenders availed themselves to the final level of the offender redress process. On average, over a three-year period, the offender (top one) with the greatest number of submissions was responsible for 13% of the final level grievances being received; 26% were from the top five offenders; and, 32% were from the top ten offenders.

## Grievance Metrics – Final Level

Fiscal Year	Average Population	Received	Offenders*
2015-16	22,872	5,023	1,800
2016-17	22,882	4,014	1,708
2017-18	23,060	3,741	1,350

\*Note: There may be overlap over time.



## What it means

This study highlights the fact that a relatively small number of multiple grievors have had a disproportionate impact on CSC's offender redress process. These findings underscore the need to find effective ways of addressing the workload produced by offenders who submit a disproportionate number of grievances.

## 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.

Prepared by: Larry Motiuk and Andre Arnet-Zargarian

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

<sup>7</sup> Motiuk, L. & Arnet-Zargarian, A. (2018). *Processing Offender Grievances in Canadian Federal Corrections*. Research in Brief, 18-13, Correctional Service Canada.

# RIB-18-17 - Segregation Intervention Initiative: An Examination of the Impact on Offender Outcomes

*Participation in the Segregation Intervention associated with greater engagement in offenders' correctional plans.*

## Why we did this study

The Segregation Intervention (SI) initiative was implemented in 2011 across seven federal maximum-security institutions in Canada. The intent of SI is to motivate and support offenders in administrative segregation to change their problematic behaviour and successfully reintegrate back into the general offender population where they can work on their Correctional Plan.

The purpose of this research was to explore the relationships between participation in SI and outcomes following release from segregation.

## What we did

Participants in SI who met the study criteria were compared to a matched historical comparison group on several outcomes for a 6-month fixed period of time following release from administrative segregation. Specifically, the SI group (N = 292) included offenders who had participated in the SI for a period of 6 days or more in the institutions offering the SI between November 1, 2011 and April 1, 2014, while the Comparison group (N = 292) included a matched group of offenders who spent at least 6 days in administrative segregation in the same institutions between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2011. Outcome measures examined included disciplinary charges, institutional incidents, return to segregation, participation in correctional programs or institutional employment, as well as time to, and duration of, segregation placement (among returns).

## What we found

Overall, offenders who participated in the SI were found to be two times more likely to have participated in, and to have completed, one or more correctional programs and were 1.5 times more likely to be employed in the institution within six months of being released from administrative segregation than those in the Comparison group. However, the SI and

Comparison groups did not differ in terms of institutional incidents, disciplinary charges, or returns to segregation. They also did not differ in the timing of their return to segregation or length of the segregation period when they did return.

We found that offenders in the SI group were more likely to be placed in segregation for their own safety whereas those in the comparison group were more likely to be segregated for the safety of the institution. The reason for segregation placement was found to be significantly related to measures of disciplinary charges as well as the time to return to segregation, whereas participation in the SI was not related. Further, there was a significant moderating effect of reason for segregation wherein it influenced the relationship between the groups and the presence of serious charges.

## What it means

The results of this study revealed that the SI Initiative had no substantive impact on disciplinary charges or returns to segregation. The goal of changing problematic behaviour appears to have not been achieved. The positive results related to correctional programs and employment suggests that offenders were more engaged in their correctional plans after participating in the SI. However, these results may have been tempered by the fact that SI participants and the comparison group differed with respect to why they were placed in segregation. Taken together, the SI initiative does not appear to have achieved its intended purpose.

## 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.

**Prepared by:** S. Johnson, E. Talisman, & J. Weekes

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

## R-402 - Development and Delivery of a Scale for the Evaluation of Risk-Needs (SERN) in Romanian Probation Services

*The Romanian Probation Service has developed a risk-needs instrument (SERN) to manage supervision risk.*

### Why we did this study

The application of offender risk/needs assessment technology to improve correctional performance on reducing re-offending is a major project underway in the Romanian Probation Service (RPS). This project falls under the auspices of a technical exchange between RPS and the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC). The present report examines the results of an enhanced case management approach to offender risk/needs assessment that was undertaken by probation staff in Romania.

### What we did

The 'Static Factors' and 'Dynamic Factors' components of CSC's risk assessment and management processes were adapted and field tested in a variety of RPS settings. The present investigation began with the design and development of an instrument for offender risk/needs evaluation in Romania. The Scale for the Evaluation of Risk/Needs (SERN) protocol for probationers was comprised of three sections: 1) Static Risk Factors (12 criminal history items and risk level rating); 2) Dynamic Risk Factors or criminogenic needs (9 domains with 2 items each totalling 18 items and needs level rating); and 3) Special Needs and Summary (priority needs, overall risk-needs and motivation). A snapshot sample of 751 offenders (673 men; 78 women) who were assessed while under the supervision of RPS over the course of a one-month period (September 2014) was assembled for study.

### What we found

The results of the 'risk/needs' field study replicated international findings regarding the operational value of systematically assessing and re-assessing offender risk and need. Both men and women probationers were easily differentiated by RPS staff as to the level of risk and needs as well as the nature of needs presented by offenders. Overall, the risk level distributions of low-, moderate- and high-risk level cases were 66.6%, 27.8% and 5.6%, respectively. On the other hand, the needs level distributions of low-, moderate- and high-need cases

were 48.5%, 41.0% and 10.5%, respectively. Interestingly, from a resource allocation perspective combining risk and need level ratings resulted in the majority of probation cases being assessed in the low risk/low needs and low risk/moderate needs categories, 43.3% and 21.2%, respectively.

The next major risk-needs category was those assessed as moderate-risk/moderate needs with a small percentage in the high-risk/high-needs category (3.7%). Not surprisingly, women probationers were more likely than men to be assessed as low risk/low needs (51.3% versus 42.4%) and low risk/moderate needs (26.9% and 20.5%) whereas men probationers were more likely to be assessed as high risk/high needs (4.0% versus 1.3%).

### What it means

Upon having successfully introduced risk/needs-based assessment technology in RPS, a next step would be to expand the nature and scope of the SERN initiative into a broader implementation exercise. Using the full application (Administrative Information, Evaluation of Risk/Needs, and Sentence Plan) would have added benefits whereby standardised reports are generated, sentence plans are produced and valuable management information is delivered for strategic planning purposes. Implementation would necessarily shift the focus from raising awareness about variation in offender and needs in RPS to an enhanced case management function that yields estimates for resource allocation.

### For more information

Motiuk, Larry, (2018). *Development and Delivery of a Scale for the Evaluation of Risk-Needs (SERN) in Romanian Probation Services* (Research Report R-402). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

# R-422 - Examining Change in Criminogenic Need Levels Associated with Correctional Program Participation among Federally Sentenced Women

*Participation in women offender correctional programming decreases criminogenic needs.*

## Why we did this study

In 2010, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) commenced implementation of a holistic, gender- and culture-informed model of correctional programming for women offenders.

To fulfill a recommendation in the Office of the Auditor General of Canada's report, *Preparing Women Offenders for Release* (2017), the current study aimed to clarify whether components of this approach were associated with positive change. Specifically, the study examined change in women's criminogenic need areas following participation in Moderate Intensity, High Intensity, Women Sex Offender, and Self-Management programs.

## What we did

The sample included 2,030 women offenders (32.6% Indigenous) who had been admitted to federal custody between April 2010 and March 2018 and had completed at least one core correctional program during this period. The final sample comprised 3,715 program completions.

Women's criminogenic needs were assessed pre- and post-treatment by the Generic Program Performance Measure (GPPM) and the Dynamic Factor Identification and Analysis – Revised (DFIA-R) domain ratings. Post-program reports completed by program facilitators were also reviewed for a random subsample for evidence of treatment gain in identified areas of need ( $n = 100$ ).

## What we found

Findings indicated that the majority of women saw a decrease in need level across most areas identified pre-treatment as program targets. The majority of Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants saw improvements in skills and prosocial thinking as reflected on the GPPM. Women who did not see a decrease in need after program participation were those who already had a good level of skills and prosocial attitudes prior to program participation.

Change in DFIA-R domain ratings was examined for offenders who had dynamic need assessments occurring within 90 days of program start and end. Following participation in all programs, most women were rated as having made positive change in most need domains. An exception to this were needs on the personal/emotional orientation domain.

Program performance reports indicated that the majority of women who had specific needs (targets) identified prior to treatment as areas for priority focus improved in these areas. Exceptions to this were needs related to the marital and family domain for women completing self-management institutional programs, and the community functioning domain for women completing high intensity programs. This suggests that women may need additional assistance related to these domains such as: identifying suitable stable accommodation and establishing a network of community support as they prepare for release. Many women had more needs than could be feasibly addressed during a single program; 50% of reports indicated that all identified program targets had been met.

## What it means

Program completers saw gains in self-management skills, prosocial attitudes, motivation for change, and knowledge relevant to the core correctional program they completed. The majority of women also saw a reduction in most of the criminogenic needs identified as areas of priority focus prior program participation.

These results provide further support for the effectiveness of gender- and culturally-informed programming for women offenders. Further research should examine how program-related changes in level of criminogenic need affect community outcomes.

## For more information

Wardrop, K. & Pardoel, K. (2018). *Examining change in criminogenic need levels associated with correctional program participation among federally sentenced women*. (Research Report R-422). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**



## R-423 - The Use of Technology in the Delivery of Correctional Intervention Programs: A Rapid Review

*Results on the efficacy of technology-based treatment modalities are promising; however, more research is needed.*

### Why we did this study

Alongside the proliferation of technology in contemporary society, there has been increased attention on the role technology can play within the criminal justice system. The impetus of the current study was to review the literature on what technology has been used in the provision of correctional treatment programming, the effectiveness and viability of these methods, and also identify any best practices recommended when implementing these modalities.

### What we did

A comprehensive search of several databases including ProQuest, government correctional agencies, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the Campbell Systematic Reviews, and Google Scholar was conducted. Where possible, focus was placed on studies centering on correctional interventions; however, this research was limited and the search was broadened to include the areas of distance education learning, telehealth, substance use treatment, and virtual reality therapy.

### What we found

Available literature indicates that the use of technology to assist in the delivery of services and interventions within correctional populations are found in a number of jurisdictions; however, technology is not routinely utilized in correctional intervention programs. More commonly, it is used in the provision of substance misuse treatment, intimate partner violence treatment, health services, and distance education learning.

Evidence is promising for these interventions, with much of the research demonstrating that alternative methods of program delivery are just as effective as face-to-face methods, with similar or greater reductions in substance misuse and recidivism.

However, concerns have been raised regarding the use of technology in the correctional environment. These concerns include:

- Operational challenges integrating technology into the correctional environment (e.g., security concerns, technological malfunctions)
- Privacy and confidentiality concerns
- Responsivity issues for older offenders and individuals with cognitive deficits, ADHD, or other learning disabilities
- Decreases in the strength of the therapeutic alliance

Best practices that should be followed when implementing technology-based programs include: considering the adaptability of the program to alternative methods of delivery, adequate testing of technology, investments in staff training, and ensuring that program delivery is sensitive to the individual needs and learning styles of the offender. For instance, this could involve presenting information in multiple formats (e.g., text, audio, and video).

### What it means

Overall, alternative methods of program delivery that utilize technology are promising, particularly for remote locations or as individual adjunct maintenance sessions or counselling options. However, more research is needed before firm conclusions can be made with regards to the efficacy and viability within the correctional setting, especially in comparison to face-to-face group delivery. Conclusions were limited due to the few research studies focusing on correctional intervention programs and those that did exist were generally small-scale studies.

### For more information

Wardrop, K., & Sheahan, C. (2018). *The use of technology in the delivery of correctional intervention programs: A rapid review* (Research Report R-423). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## R-404 - Comorbid Mental Disorders: Prevalence and Impact on Community Outcomes

*Comorbid personality or substance misuse disorders underlie higher revocation rates for offenders with mental disorders.*

### Why we did this study

Understanding the outcomes of offenders with various types of mental disorders is key to ensuring effective correctional supervision and intervention strategies for this significant proportion of the offender population. An earlier study completed in Correctional Service of Canada (CSC; Stewart & Wilton, 2017) found poorer institutional outcomes for offenders with mental disorders who also have comorbid diagnoses for personality (PD) or substance use disorders (SUD). Offenders with an Axis I disorder only (without SUD or PD) were no more likely to be involved in misconducts, to be instigators in assault related incidents, or to be placed in segregation than offenders with no diagnosed mental disorder. The current research analyzed the link between mental diagnosis and outcomes on conditional release.

### What we did

The current research used the results of a national mental health survey that assessed incoming men offenders ( $N=1,110$ ) on the SCID (a clinical interview protocol). These results were used to determine prevalence rates of mental disorders among incoming federal men offenders. The 7 most frequent combinations of diagnoses were identified and the associated on these patterns of comorbidity with revocation of any kind and revocation with an offence was examined and compared to offenders without a disorder.

### What we found

Results confirmed the findings of the previous research indicating that federally-sentenced men with mental health diagnoses (Axis 1) that are combined with concurrent diagnoses for substance use disorders and personality disorders had the poorest outcomes and the highest rates of functional impairment. Offenders with an Axis 1 disorder in the absence of comorbid disorders had similar rates of revocations as offenders with no disorders.

These results were upheld when factors related to correctional outcomes were controlled.

Previous international research has produced conflicting results on the role of mental disorder as a risk factor for general criminal offending. The current study provides strong evidence that it is largely the symptoms common to personality disorders, in combination with substance misuse problems that contribute to the higher level of criminality among individuals with a mental disorder. A diagnosis in the absence of these problems does not attenuate correctional outcomes or explain violent behaviour. (An exception to this may be when the positive symptoms of a serious mental illness are active). Failure to take into account the role of comorbidity may explain the inconsistency in research related to mental disorder and criminality.

### What it means

From a policy point of view these results point to the need for offenders with mental health challenges to be provided with interventions that directly target their criminogenic need factors (Andrews & Bonta, 2010) in addition to treating their serious mental health problems. Addressing the mental health problems in the absence of assessing and addressing features of impulsivity, emotional reactivity, and antisocial orientation is unlikely to improve correctional outcomes of mentally disordered offenders in the criminal justice system.

### For more information

Stewart, LA, Gamwell, L., & Wilton G (2018). *Comorbid mental disorders: Prevalence and impact on community outcomes*. (R-404). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

# R-410 - An Examination of the Mental Health Continuum of Care in CSC

*Most offenders with significant impairment due to a mental health disorder received the complete continuum of care.*

## Why we did this study

The study responds to the Evaluation Report's Management Action Plan Recommendation 10 on clinical discharge planning and community mental health services calling for CSC to: 1) conduct a review of the model of community mental health service delivery to ensure that community mental health services are being provided to offenders with the greatest mental health needs; and, 2) ensure that clinical discharge planning activities are tracked in electronic information systems.

## What we did

Federal offenders assessed as having significant impairment related to mental health problems were selected to be included in a file review to determine the extent to which they received the continuum of care to address their mental health needs. All offenders included in the study had been released for at least two months and had a diagnosis of one of the following: major depressive disorder, bi-polar disorders, or any psychotic disorder. All had a Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score of 50 or less signalling serious or severe impairment. From this sample, the continuum of care was assessed for 40 offenders. Offenders were selected to ensure that women and Indigenous offenders were represented and men's files were selected to ensure cases were distributed across regions and were among the most recent releases.

## What we found

The review of files for the selected offenders revealed that the majority received health services while incarcerated. Further, the majority (86%) of those who still had mental health needs at the time of release had evidence of some form of planning to address mental health care while in the community, and all offenders with significant needs on release received community mental health services whether provided through CSC services or provincially funded health services. All told, over two-thirds of offenders received the complete continuum of care.

A second goal of the study was to assess how well offender mental health care and clinical discharge planning services were recorded in electronic records. We found that during the period of the study it was difficult to easily access information relevant to assessing

the continuum of care. CSC is in the process of fully implementing an electronic health record and planned amendments may improve data access and extraction.

Two potential solutions to improve electronic record keeping to allow for more efficient monitoring of the degree of support and services offenders with mental health problems receive throughout their sentence were identified.

- A systematic requirement to report mental health needs at various points in the sentence and enter this information into a single document would allow better access of the information to all members of the case management team. This is consistent with guidelines in place for discharge planning.
- An OMS flag alerting staff when to start development of the discharge plan could provide staff sufficient time to implement effective release planning.

## What it means

Based on the purposive sampling examining a group of offenders with significant mental health needs, we determined that most had file evidence of having received the complete continuity of care. Nevertheless, this was only determined through examination of multiple documents. Clear, consistent and accessible record keeping is necessary to allow ongoing monitoring of the full range of care throughout the full period offenders are under warrant.

## For more information

Stewart, L., Wardrop, K., Thompson, J., Wilton, G., & Wanamaker, K. (2018). *An examination of the mental health continuum of care for a sample of federal offenders with serious impairment related to mental disorders*. (Research Report R-410). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## R-411 - Inter-rater Reliability and Concurrent Validity of the MHNS

*The Mental Health Need Scale (MHNS) has excellent inter-rater reliability and good concurrent validity for all offender groups.*

### Why we did this study

The Health Services Evaluation Recommendation 6 called for the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) “to conduct analysis to verify the validity and reliability of the Mental Health Need Scale (MHNS).” In addition, it called for provisions to strengthen the process for recording and maintaining offender level of need data. A related recommendation was made in the recent Auditor General’s report *Preparing Women Offenders for Release* (Auditor General of Canada, 2017).

Recommendation 5.84 called for CSC to “ensure that it appropriately identifies women offenders who need mental health services and assigns them to the appropriate level of care”.

### What we did

This study examined the tool’s inter-rater reliability and aspects of its validity. The total sample consisted of 150 offenders from across CSC who were selected by staff as needing a MHNS assessment. Just over half of the sample was comprised of men and almost two-thirds were non-Indigenous. Almost 60% were rated as low or no need and 40% were rated as either moderate or high on the MHNS. The NHQ raters were trained by one of the scale developers prior to conducting interviews. Site raters received an information package with guidelines on the use of the assessment, but no formal training. NHQ staff and site staff independently and concurrently completed the MHNS and the Clinical Global Impressions (CGI) scale for each of the 150 offenders. The overall need ratings and the CGI ratings were compared to evaluate the consistency and reliability across different raters. Concurrent validity was assessed by comparing the ratings on the MHNS to that of the Clinical Global Impression Scale (CGI). Percentage agreement and Intra-class Correlation Coefficients were calculated for the overall sample as well as by men, women, non-Indigenous and Indigenous offenders.

### What we found

The results produced three main findings: 1) excellent inter-rater reliability for the MHNS total score across the overall sample; excellent inter-rater reliability on the

overall need score for women and Indigenous offenders; 2) strong concurrent validity between the CGI and the MHNS, for both institutional raters and NHQ raters (for the overall sample as well as across subsamples); and, 3) in general, good internal consistency of the tool in that most of the domains were significantly related to the overall rating. Very few offenders received overall ratings that did not match their domain ratings. Of note, however, the rating on concurrent disorders was only weakly associated with the overall rating indicating inconsistent rating on this domain.

### What it means

The MHNS demonstrates excellent inter-rater reliability as well as substantial concurrent validity across men, women, and Indigenous offenders. This indicates that it is an appropriate tool to allocate offenders to a level of care. However, consideration should be given to highlighting to raters the importance of assessing concurrent substance abuse and mental health problems as part of the MHNS assessment process. Recent research within CSC has demonstrated that the presence of substance use problems in addition to other mental health disorders substantially complicates treatment and that offenders with the combined disorders are at greater risk for negative outcomes. Finally, given the psychometric strength of the tool, consideration could be given to its use to systematically reassess offenders following treatment to gauge the effectiveness of the intervention.

### For more information

Stewart, L., Wanamaker, K., Wilton, G., & Toor, G. (2018). *Inter-rater reliability and concurrent validity of the Mental Health Need Scale*. (Research Report R-411). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## R-420 - Prevalence of mental disorder among federal women offenders: Intake and in-custody

*There are high rates of mental disorder among federal women offenders assessed at intake as well as in-custody.*

### Why we did this study

International and Canadian research has established a high prevalence of mental disorder among women prisoners, up to four times or more than the prevalence found in the general population. An estimated three-quarters of women inmates have an alcohol/substance use disorder (e.g., Brown et al., 2018), and half or more of have a co-occurring mental disorder with substance abuse or personality disorder (e.g., Bebbington et al., 2017; Derkzen, Booth, McConnell, & Taylor, 2012). The current report compares and combines the results of the previously reported 2016 study of the prevalence of mental disorder among in-custody federal women inmates with the recent results of the 2017 intake sample of federal women inmates in order to provide a solid estimate of the prevalence of mental disorder among federally sentenced women in Canada.

### What we did

Between February 25, 2016 – October 11, 2016 a total of 160 women in custody were interviewed on the SCID-I/NP and SCID-II (research versions of clinical interviews designed to assess symptoms of mental disorders described in the DSM-IV). Prevalence estimates were made of the lifetime and current diagnoses of the following disorders: 1) mood; 2) psychotic; 3) substance use; 4) anxiety; 5) eating; 6) pathological gambling; 7) Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD); and 8) Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). Following the completion of the in-custody study, between October 11, 2016 – December 31, 2017, a total of 86 women recently admitted to federal custody also completed the SCID-I and SCID-II instruments.

For the purposes of analysis, and to more validly estimate the prevalence of mental disorder among the federal women, the in-custody and intake samples were combined into one sample (N = 246).

### What we found

Results showed that more than three-quarters of women inmates had a lifetime or current mental disorder and at least two-thirds of the women reported symptoms consistent with a co-occurring mental disorder with

alcohol/substance use or borderline or antisocial personality disorder. More than half (52.0%) of the women in the combined sample report a lifetime major mental illness (either a psychosis, major depression or bi-polar disorder), and 17.9% have a current major mental illness. One-third (33.3%) of women with a current mental disorder have a Global Assessment of Function score  $\leq 50$ , indicating serious impairment in psychological and social functioning. Indigenous women have the highest prevalence of mental disorder, and the most serious impairment in functioning.

Compared to the in-custody sample participants, women in the intake sample were similar in demographic and criminal history characteristics, but the prevalence of mental disorder among the intake sample participants was statistically significantly lower. This is consistent with other research that noted that in-custody prison populations include a higher proportion of long-term and higher risk offenders who are also more likely to have a higher prevalence of mental disorder compared to samples of recently admitted prisoners (e.g., Brown, Hirdes & Fries, 2013; Moffit et al., 2010; Stewart et al., 2010).

### What it means

The results from the in-custody, intake and combined samples of federal women inmates confirm findings from international and other Canadian studies of a high prevalence of mental disorder posing a significant challenge to provision of effective treatment programs and services.

### For more information

Brown, G.P., Barker, J., McMillan, K., Norman, R., Derkzen, D., Stewart, L.A., & Wardrop, K. (2018). *Prevalence of mental disorder among federally sentenced women offenders: In-Custody and intake samples* (Research Report R-420). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## R-409 - Mental Health Needs of Veterans in the Canadian Correctional System: A Brief Review

*Veteran offenders have complex mental health needs that are impacted by a variety of factors such as homelessness and prior trauma exposure. Additional research concerning federal Canadian veteran offenders is needed.*

### Why we did this study

In 2012, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) established a memorandum of understanding to support and provide services for veterans incarcerated in the federal correctional system. As part of this agreement, a VAC-CSC working group was formed to annually identify action items for the working group and to establish priority areas that enable both organizations to support offenders throughout incarceration and upon release and reintegration into the community. The current research initiative was mutually agreed upon and is a component of this agreement.

### What we did

In support of improving current efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate veteran offenders, a literature review on the mental health needs of veteran offenders was undertaken. Reviewing academic literature as well as governmental and non-government organizational publications and websites, this review examined information concerning the specific mental health needs of veterans as well as other factors that indirectly impact on mental health, such as homelessness and antisocial behaviors.

### What we found

Veteran offenders are more likely to be convicted of violent offences than non-veteran offenders, suggesting a link with antisocial behaviour. Research indicated that incarcerated veterans were more likely to display physical manifestations of antisocial tendencies (e.g., smashing things, being manipulative, or seeking revenge) and traits (e.g., verbal aggression, sensation seeking, and disinhibition). The association between mental health concerns, antisocial behaviour, and the incidence of intimate partner violence and the role of prior trauma (combat history or military sexual trauma) was also explored. Veteran offenders often have complex mental health needs that may impede their ability to reintegrate into the community following incarceration.

Mental health research for veteran offenders identified the impact of post-traumatic stress disorder and the struggle associated with transitioning to civilian life as factors that may increase the risk of incarceration.

Coping strategies used by veterans (e.g. substance misuse) may further contribute to criminal offending and incarceration.

Homelessness among veterans is associated with mental health concerns and the potential for increased risk of criminal offending behaviour. Research has shown that addressing the need for housing better supports veterans in addressing their mental health issues and may divert veterans from criminal behaviour or criminal justice system involvement.

An overview of assessment tools and community based interventions for veterans was provided. Veteran courts, in particular, have been identified as a strategy to minimize the potential for re-offending of veteran offenders and allow for a holistic examination of the veteran's offending, mental health issues, and prior military experience.

### What it means

The literature review highlights the importance of mental health services and supports for veteran offenders. Homelessness, antisocial behaviours, and specific mental health diagnoses present additional challenges for the support and rehabilitation of these offenders, particularly due to the association of these factors with criminal offending in general. Future research initiatives concerning veteran offenders will be identified based on consultation with the VAC-CSC working group and the corporate needs of CSC.

### For more information

Agterberg, S., Beauchamp, T., & Farrell MacDonald, S. (2018) *Mental health needs of veterans in the Canadian correctional system: A brief review* (Research Report R-409). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

# R-398 - Health and service access challenges for correctional offenders with mental health and substance use problems in transition from incarceration to community: A literature

*Continuity of mental health treatment, stable housing and employment promote more positive outcomes.*

## Why we did this study

This study compiled a narrative review of the literature identifying: health problems and breakdown of access to care and services for offenders with mental health and substance use issues during transition from incarceration to the community, the factors contributing to these outcomes, and evaluated interventions or approaches for mitigating these harms over the last twenty years.

## What we did

We searched key databases for publications on experiences or challenges of transition/release from incarceration among mentally ill and/or substance user populations for studies published in 1996 to present. The information was organized into three broad themes relating to challenges and outcomes during release from correctional institutions, contributing factors to these challenges, and interventions aimed at reducing poor outcomes. Contributing factors were further divided into individual (i.e., personal explanations for behaviour), structural (i.e., those dealing with economic and social environments), and systemic factors.

## What we found

Individual factors related to addictions and personality disorders contributed to a heightened difficulty to remain engaged in treatment services. Structural factors, such as restrictive housing and employment policies or requirements, posed barriers that did not accommodate the specific needs of mentally ill and substance-using inmate populations. Systemic factors, including inadequate pre-release planning and unstable housing were obstacles to attaining social stability and engaging in treatment during the transition from incarceration to community.

Approaches most consistently beneficial across all outcomes were those that provided in-custody treatment with pre- and post-release care planning, arrangement and follow-up. Pre- or post-release interventions alone usually did not ensure consistent contact with and engagement of offenders in treatment during the critical point of release to ensure uninterrupted treatment during

transition from incarceration to community. Offenders engaged in post-release mental health or substance use treatment experienced lower rates of hospitalization, drug use, death, and re-incarceration.

Interventions that provided both pre-release initiation of care and ensured continuation of aftercare through case management or enrolling offenders in community programs before release were associated with less relapse to drug use and return to risky pre-incarceration behaviour, lower likelihood of re-arrest, and higher levels of retention in treatment.

Many released offenders with mental health or substance use issues noted their most pressing needs upon release were for housing and employment or other financial assistance. Their inability to access or remain in mental health or substance use treatment after release was due to their primary need to pursue social stability (i.e., housing, employment).

## What it means

Continuity of treatment for offenders with a mental disorder post release is important to improve outcomes but is jeopardized when other pressing social needs are prioritized. Stressors that contributed to poorer outcomes were lack of social support and challenges in obtaining financial and housing stability during reintegration.

## For more information

Murphy, Y., Farihah, A., Fischer, B. *Health and service access challenges for correctional offenders with mental health and substance use problems in transition from incarceration to community: A literature review.* (Research Report R-398). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## R-421 - Application of Technological Advances in the Assessment and Treatment of Addiction in Corrections

*Technology-based assessments and treatments are highly promising techniques for reducing impulse control deficits and substance use among federally sentenced offenders in Canada.*

### Why we did the study

Substance use disorders (SUDs) are highly prevalent among offenders in the criminal justice system, with estimates as high as 70-80% in Canada. Deficits in impulse control (including difficulty inhibiting or controlling behaviour, delaying gratification, and increased risk-taking behaviour) are known to contribute to SUDs and criminal behaviour in independent lines of research, but the impact of these deficits among offenders with SUDs is unclear. Effective assessment and treatment of SUDs requires use of “best practices” and the application of new technologies. The goals of this review were to 1) critically evaluate the literature on impulse control deficits in offenders; 2) summarize what is known about the brain basis of these deficits; and 3) discuss recent applications of technology to treat SUDs in offenders.

### What we did

A literature search of multiple databases yielded 28 peer-reviewed studies assessing impulse control deficits in offender samples. Computerized assessments of impulse control were grouped into two domains: 1) inhibition and 2) risky/impulsive decision-making. Representative studies using brain imaging (e.g., functional magnetic resonance imaging, etc.) and technology interventions (e.g., mobile apps, internet-based, virtual reality, etc.) were reviewed.

### What we found

The research studies included in the review were conducted in a range of countries (44% in North America) and settings (83% in correctional or forensic institutions). Across the studies, offenders had relatively consistent deficits in response inhibition and delay of gratification (e.g., impulsive choices). Risk-taking measures were less consistent, with some studies finding that offenders make excessively risky choices and others not.

Research using structural and functional brain imaging emphasize deficits in the frontal lobes (e.g., prefrontal cortex) as an important contributor to impulse control deficits in offenders. Several studies suggested that impairments in impulse control and corresponding brain deficits may serve as a risk marker for future criminal involvement and reoffending.

Technology-based treatments for addictive disorders have shown initial effectiveness in correctional settings, resulting in significant reductions in craving and substance use. Promising interventions include mobile apps, internet-based programs, and virtual reality cue exposures.

In general, we found that research on the intersection of impulse control deficits, criminal behaviour, and SUDs is lacking. An important priority for research is to study impulse control deficits among offenders with problematic levels of substance use.

### What it means

Deficits in impulse control have important implications for criminal behaviour, substance use, and long-term success following release. Developing new ways of reducing these impulse control problems may reduce burden on the criminal justice system.

Technology-based assessment and treatment may be especially useful in prison settings due to barriers to accessing evidence-based “best practice” treatments in this environment, such as face-to-face psychotherapy.

Although the studies reviewed suggest that offenders have consistent difficulties in impulse control, research on impulse control deficits in offenders with SUDs remains limited and therefore a key area for future research.

### For more information

Amlung, M., Vedelago, L., Morris, V., Petker, T., Balodis, I., McLachlan, K., Mamak, M., Moulden, H., Chaimowitz, G., & MacKillop, J. (2018). *Application of Technological Advances in the Assessment and Treatment of Addiction in Corrections: A Systematic Review*. (Research Report R-421). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**



# RIB-18-03 - Women Convicted of Fraud-related Offences: A Profile

*Women convicted of fraud are mostly low to moderate risk to reoffend and are serving sentences of less than 4 years.*

## Why we did this study

Fraudulent behaviour poses a significant economic cost to the community which is higher than other types of property crime<sup>8</sup>. Notably, the literature looking at females who commit financial crime is limited, especially within a Canadian context. As such, there is a need to generate a profile of women convicted of fraud to ensure appropriate treatment and case management planning strategies are developed and/or utilized to enhance rehabilitative efforts both within the community and in custody.

## What we did

Data was extracted for all federally-sentenced women serving time in either the community or in custody. Women were separated into two groups: women convicted of fraud under s.380 of the Canadian Criminal Code ( $n = 143$ ; 10.7% of all women) and a comparison group of women convicted of all other offences ( $n = 1,188$ ) on April 9, 2017. The correctional files of a subset of women ( $n = 36$ ) who were convicted of fraud over \$5000 were also examined.

## What we found

Compared to women convicted of offences other than fraud, more women convicted of fraud were currently serving their sentences in the community (53.8% versus 47.3%) as opposed to in custody (46.2% versus 52.7%) and were older on average (46 years old versus 37 years old for those convicted of non-financial offences).

Women convicted of fraud were less likely than women convicted of other offences to be Indigenous (33% vs. 13%). Just over a third (33.6%) were in the Prairie region, and an additional 30.1% were in the Ontario region. Similar to women who were convicted of other offences, women convicted of fraud were predominately serving sentences of less than 4 years (68.5%).

While the majority of women who commit fraud were low risk (53.4% of those in custody and 70.1% of those in the community), women in custody were more likely to be

rated as high need than those on community supervision (43.1% vs. 3.9%).

For women who were convicted of fraud over \$5000, the majority occupied positions such as book keepers, office managers, and financial officers and committed offences that involved large sums of money (\$20,000 to \$16,000,000). An additional subset of women was identified as unemployed at the time of the offence and tended to employ less sophisticated measures to commit fraud (e.g., writing bad cheques). The primary motivation for these financial crimes was financial need for the family and/or gambling. Notably, the majority of these women pose low to moderate risk to reoffend given that most have no prior federal convictions. However, these women presented moderate to high need in terms of antisocial attitudes and personal/emotional orientation.

## What it means

Women convicted of fraud are generally older, non-Indigenous, serving sentences of less than 4 years, and pose low to moderate risk for reoffending. Understanding specific types of women offenders can further inform program delivery and determine additional areas of service that may be beneficial, such as education and employment programs. Deciphering the characteristics specific to women who are convicted of financial crimes can aid in the case management of these offenders, including targeting their attitudes and personal/emotional needs—both in the institution and in the community.

## For more information

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**Prepared by:** K. Wanamaker, C. De Moor, C. Bjergso, K. Wardrop, & D. Derkzen

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

<sup>8</sup> Atkinson, J. L., & Quinsey, V.L. (2010). Neutralizations of male and female offenders. (Unpublished manuscript).

# RIB-18-07 - Exploring the Shift in the Federal Women Offender Distribution

*The shift towards a higher proportion of women under community supervision is the result of effective case management.*

## Why we are doing this study

Over the past five years, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has seen an increase (+304 or 28.1%) in women under federal jurisdiction [from **1,083** at year-end in 2012-13 to **1,387** in 2017-18]. While it appears that women in federal custody had been increasing from **603** at year-end in 2012-13 to **679** in 2017-18, the custody population had peaked in 2015-16 and is now in decline. On the other hand, there has been steady growth (+228 or 47.5%) in the conditional release supervision population from **480** at year-end in 2012-13 to **708** in 2017-18. Also noteworthy, 2017-18 marked a historical shift of proportionally more women under community supervision than in custody. Gaining an understanding the recent shift can facilitate the allocation of programming and operational resources.

## Women Offender Population: 2012-13 to 2017-18

Fiscal Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
<b>Custody</b>	603	617	658	693	680	679
<b>Community</b>	480	489	527	574	651	708
<b>Total</b>	1,083	1,106	1,185	1,267	1,331	1,387
<b>Ratio In/Out</b>	56/44	56/44	56/44	55/45	51/49	49/51

## 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 (April 15, 2018) 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 population was undertaken.

## What we found

Overall, admissions to federal custody for women have risen from **412** in 2012-13 to **519** in 2017-18; a substantial difference of **+107** (or +26.0%). 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 32.3% in 2012-13 to 28.5% in 2017-18.

On the other hand, total releases from federal custody appear to have increased from **452** in 2012-13 to **569** in 2017-18. Again, unpacking total releases by type it is noteworthy that there has been a steady rise in day parole releases from **185** in 2012-13 to **321** in 2017-18; a difference of **+136** (or +73.5%). While it may appear that there has been little change in revocations, there has been a substantial increase in earlier releases on day parole resulting in less days spent incarcerated for a considerable portion of the federal offender population.

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

Fiscal Year	Total Admissions	Admissions (Revocation)	Total Releases	Releases (Day Parole)
2012-13	412	133	452	185
2013-14	429	111	406	153
2014-15	472	124	455	186
2015-16	541	149	521	207
2016-17	549	132	572	282
2017-18	519	148	569	321

## What it means

Notwithstanding the fact that growth of women offender population in federal custody has dampened, it appears that more women are being released earlier in their sentence and managed safely in the community. It is the combined efforts at efficient preparation for safe release and effective case management that has resulted in shift towards a higher proportion of federally sentenced women under community supervision than in 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.

Prepared by: Larry Motiuk and Bruno Jean

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

## RIB-18-11 - Conditions of Release for Federal Women Offenders

*Controlling for risk factors, returns to custody did not increase with number of conditions imposed for women offenders; suspension rates increased for Indigenous women only.*

### Why we did this study

Prior research indicated that the number of special release conditions imposed for federal offenders on conditional release increased from 2000 to 2011, although this increase did not appear to have an impact on the rate of suspensions or returns to custody.<sup>9</sup> The current study examined the pattern and impact of conditions imposed for federal Indigenous and non-Indigenous women offenders.

### What we did

Women on their first conditional release between April 2013 and March 2017 were included in this study. Overall, 1,351 women were released; 30% ( $n = 403$ ) were Indigenous (21% First Nations, 8% Métis, and 1% Inuit). Release conditions imposed within 90 days prior to release were examined. Patterns of conditions and their impact on suspensions and returns to custody were explored.

### What we found

Almost all Indigenous and non-Indigenous women had special release conditions imposed (99.5% versus 99.6%). Indigenous women were more likely to have the following conditions: abstain from alcohol or drugs, avoid certain people, follow treatment/programming plan, or a residency condition. Non-Indigenous women were more likely to have an "other"<sup>10</sup> condition imposed. Although the average number of conditions for Indigenous and non-Indigenous women did not differ significantly (5 versus 4), Indigenous women were more likely to have five or more conditions (58% versus 44%).<sup>11</sup> Indigenous women had a higher risk profile at release and were more likely to be released on statutory release.

*Suspensions.* Overall, 66% of Indigenous women and 38% of non-Indigenous women with release conditions were suspended. Suspensions were most common for those with residency, alcohol/drug, or treatment/programming

conditions, regardless of ancestry. Bivariate analysis showed that suspension rates increased with the number of conditions imposed for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous women. However, controlling for time at risk and other risk factors<sup>12</sup> the number of conditions imposed was associated with higher rates of suspensions for Indigenous women only.

*Returns to Custody.* Almost half (46%) of Indigenous women and 21% of non-Indigenous women with release conditions returned to custody. Returns to custody were most common for Indigenous women who had residency, alcohol/drug, and avoid people conditions while for non-Indigenous women those with residency, alcohol/drug, and treatment or programming conditions had higher rates of return to custody. When time at risk and other factors<sup>4</sup> were controlled, no direct association of the type or number of conditions and returns to custody was observed.

### What it means

The same proportion of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women had release conditions imposed, but the number of conditions had an association with the rate of suspensions for Indigenous women only. These findings, however, did not link imposition of special release conditions to returns to custody for either group. This suggests that imposition of more conditions for Indigenous women may increase suspensions but does not translate into increased public safety. Given the high needs of these women, particularly in the area of substance misuse, enhancing community services and support may be expected to have an impact on results.

### 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.

**Prepared by:** Shanna Farrell MacDonald

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

<sup>9</sup> Ritchie, M., Saddleback, C., & Gobeil, R. (2014). *Special conditions and post-release outcomes over time* (RS 14-17). Ottawa, ON: CSC.

<sup>10</sup> Other conditions include reporting to police, abstaining from driving, avoid gambling/gambling establishments, reporting relationships, financial restrictions, computer and telecommunication restrictions, etc.

<sup>11</sup> Twenty-five women had 10-14 release conditions; 76% were released in Ontario. 80% were released on statutory release. Manual file coding for six women indicated that the women had

complex substance use and mental health needs as well as responsibility issues that required a high level of structure and/or support upon release.

<sup>12</sup> Other factors controlled for in the survival analysis were: security classification at release, release type, dynamic factor rating, static factor rating, reintegration potential, motivation level, Women's Computerized Assessment of Substance Abuse (WCASA) treatment need, criminogenic need areas, releasing region, age at release, sentence number, and sentence length.

## R-394 - Minimum Security Women: A Profile

*Minimum security women have lower risk/need profiles and better correctional outcomes than other security groups.*

### Why we did this study

Classifying offenders to a security level based on their risk of being involved in institutional misconducts, incidents of violence, and escapes assists the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) in ensuring safe and secure institutions. Previous studies have been conducted on higher risk women, but very little research has focused on incarcerated women classified as minimum security. Given that the majority of women offenders spend at least part of their incarceration in minimum security, knowing more about their profiles and correctional experiences can aid in informing case management strategies.

### What we did

Analyses focused on four areas of the correctional experience: intake information, institutional adjustment, intervention involvement, and outcomes on release for three groups of women: (1) women who were initially placed at minimum security and stayed there until release ( $n = 296$ ; 15% Indigenous); (2) women who had cascaded to minimum security prior to release ( $n = 132$ ; 35% Indigenous); and (3) women who had never cascaded to minimum security prior to release ( $n = 249$ ; 46% Indigenous). Information was extracted from the Offender Management System and the Computerized Mental Health Intake Screening System.

### What we found

Results indicated that there were distinct differences in profile and in correctional outcomes by group.

- Relative to other groups, women who spent their entire incarceration in minimum security were the least likely to have been convicted of a violent offence, had the lowest risk and need ratings, and were least likely to have mental health concerns.
- Women who were always in minimum security were the least likely to violate institutional rules and receive sanctions.

- Congruent with the risk principle, women who did and did not cascade to minimum security prior to release were enrolled in more correctional programs than women who were always in minimum security. Women who were always in minimum security had the highest rates of program completion, were most likely to be granted discretionary release, and had the best community outcomes on release.
- Across all groups examined, relative to non-Indigenous women, Indigenous women were more likely to be assessed as higher risk and need. On release, they had higher rates of revocation for any reason than non-Indigenous women. Encouragingly, Indigenous women often had the highest rates of enrollment and completion of programs and educational interventions; furthermore, 61% of Indigenous women who cascaded to minimum security by the time of their release had been involved in Indigenous-specific interventions.

### What it means

The results of the study on the profile and outcomes of federally sentenced women classified as minimum security suggest that security classification decisions for women in CSC are appropriate. Women who were initially classified to minimum were least likely to receive sanctions while incarcerated. Results provide insight to where improvements could still be made to this group, namely, in increasing the focus on addressing the needs of minimum-security Indigenous women.

### For more information

Wardrop, K., Thompson, J., & Derkzen, D. (2018). *Minimum security women: A profile* (Research Report R-394). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

# R-406 - National Prevalence of Mental Disorders among Federally Sentenced Women Offenders: In Custody Sample

*Rates of mental disorder among women offenders are very high; many of these women will require mental health services.*

## Why we did this study

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) requires information on the prevalence of major mental health disorders among federal offenders to plan for appropriate services. CSC research found higher rates of mental disorder among federal men offenders than in community samples. Rates of mental disorder among women offenders may be particularly high.

## What we did

The study determined the prevalence rates of major mental disorders among women offenders currently in custody in CSC facilities. Using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Axis I and Axis II Disorders (SCID-I and SCID-II) the following disorders were assessed: 1) mood; 2) psychotic; 3) substance use; 4) anxiety; 5) eating; 6) pathological gambling; 7) Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD); and 8) Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). Rates were obtained for both lifetime and current prevalence (i.e., the past month). From a list of women in custody every third woman was approached to participate in the diagnostic interview from February 2016 to October 2016. In total, 154 women from across the five regions provided consent and were included.

## What we found

Most women met criteria for a current mental disorder (79.2%); among Indigenous women the rate was 95.6%. When women who only had APD or substance abuse disorders are not included rates remain high at over 60%. The highest prevalence rates were for alcohol and substance abuse disorders (lifetime) and for current anxiety disorders. The most common anxiety disorder was for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) with almost one-third of the women meeting criteria. Co-morbid diagnoses were common; for example, 64% of the women in custody have another mental disorder in combination with a personality disorder and 82% had another mental disorder in addition to a substance abuse disorder. Global Assessment of Function (GAF) scores indicate that 67% of the women with a disorder are functioning with no to minimal or moderate impairment. Seventeen percent of federally sentenced women suffer from major mental illness defined as a diagnosis for any one of the following: major depressive disorder, bi-polar I, bi-polar II disorder, or any psychotic disorder.

*Prevalence Rates for Current Diagnosis of Major Mental Disorders among Incarcerated Women Offenders (N=154)*

Disorder	%
Any disorder	79.2
Mood disorders	22.1
Psychotic disorders	4.6
Alcohol/substance use disorders <sup>a</sup>	76.0
Anxiety disorders	54.2
Eating disorders	11.0
Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD)	33.3
Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD)	49.4

*Note.* Percentages may not add to 100% as participants could meet the diagnostic criteria for more than one category.

<sup>a</sup> Diagnoses of substance abuse disorders, APD and BPD rely on lifetime estimates.

## What it means

Women offenders in custody have very high rates of mental disorder including high lifetime rates of alcohol and substance use disorders and APD. Many women in CSC require interventions to address their mental health problems. Findings from the study will inform management strategies for mental health services offered by CSC.

## For more information

Brown, G., Barker, J., McMillan, K., Norman, R., Derksen, D., & Stewart, L. (2018). *National prevalence of mental disorders among federally sentenced women offenders: In custody sample (R-406)*. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## R-412 - An assessment of the reliability and validity of the SRSW

*The SRSW was found to be a reliable and valid security classification tool for Indigenous and non-Indigenous women.*

### Why we did this study

Security classification reviews occur throughout the period of incarceration to ensure that offenders are placed at security levels that are appropriate to the offender's risk of institutional misconduct, including threat to public safety posed by escapes from custody. The Security Reclassification Scale for Women (SRSW) is used, in conjunction with professional judgement, to determine a woman's security level after initial classification. The goal of the current research was to assess the utility of the SRSW to ensure it is reliable and valid.

### What we did

The final sample of SRSW reviews included 645 reviews completed for a total 499 women offenders. The reviews were finalized between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2017. SRSW reviews were included when a CRS which was used for initial security level placement (i.e., Offender Security Level (OSL)) was present on the same term. Both reliability and validity (convergent and predictive) were assessed, where possible, analyses were conducted separately by Indigenous identity.

### What we found

Findings showed that the majority of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women were recommended for minimum or medium security placement. The proportion of women allocated to each level of security did not vary significantly by Indigenous identity.

Although reviews generally occurred in a timely manner, 15% of women had a review which occurred after the two-year review window had passed.

Discordant decisions that occurred outside of the discretionary ranges and operational policy were made relatively often and above traditionally recommended levels. When rationales for the discordant decisions were available, caseworkers often referenced the offenders' current behaviour and attitude. Aboriginal Social History factors were often considered for Indigenous women.

The SRSW was generally found to be a reliable and valid classification tool:

- Most SRSW items were found to be weakly to moderately associated with the total score, with acceptable internal consistency.
- With regards to convergent validity, both the SRSW security level recommendations and the final security level decisions were weakly to moderately associated with ratings of risk and reintegration potential.
- An assessment of the predictive validity of the SRSW for institutional and community outcomes found that both SRSW security level recommendations and final security level decisions were moderately to strongly related to institutional offences, strongly related to discretionary release decisions, and weakly related to revocations of conditional release.

### What it means

These results support the continued use of the SRSW to inform the security classification review process in CSC. Although continued use is merited, consideration should be given to implementing methods to improve the timing of reviews for particular groups of women offenders and the rate of final placement decisions inconsistent with the scale results.

### For more information

Thompson, J., & Wardrop, K. (2018). *An assessment of the reliability and validity of the Security Reclassification*

*Scale for Women* (Research Report R-412). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## R-413 - Women Offender Assessment: Can Gender-Informed Variables Improve Prediction?

*A gender-informed approach to risk and need assessment using OMS data accurately predicts outcomes for women.*

### Why we did this study

In recent decades, correctional organizations have begun to recognize the differences between factors related to men and women's involvement in the criminal justice system and their response to interventions and have incorporated this information into the development of treatment approaches for women offenders.

Increasingly, gender differences have also been hypothesized to be important in the assessment of risk and needs, with some scholars proposing that there may be factors that are more important for women. The goal of the current study was to examine the feasibility of using existing data from the Correctional Service of Canada's (CSC) Offender Management System (OMS) to develop a gender-informed risk/need assessment tool.

### What we did

Women admitted to federal custody for a new warrant of committal between September 28, 2009 to January 8, 2017 who had a subsequent release into the community were included. Women were randomly classified into two groups: (1) those in the development group – used to develop the assessment tool ( $n = 646$ , 35% Indigenous); (2) those in the validation group – used to validate the assessment tool ( $n = 620$ , 38% Indigenous). As well, a matched-comparison group of men was used to assess the possible gender differences of the tool ( $n = 647$ , 36% Indigenous). Small numbers did not allow for the disaggregation of results by Indigenous identity.

The OMS was reviewed to identify both gender-neutral and gender-responsive variables to consider in the development of a gender-informed assessment tool. Then, items were reduced through a combination of descriptive statistics, regression analyses, and principle components analyses.

### What we found

Results showed that OMS was able to be used to create a gender-informed risk/need assessment tool that included 22 items in 9 domains: 1) criminal history, 2) drug misuse and unstable accommodation, 3) antisocial personality, 4) employment, 5) alcohol misuse, 6) negative childhood experiences, 7) violence and weapons, 8) support and resources, and 9) incidents and charges. These items represented both gender-neutral

and gender-responsive items. An overall rating categorized women as Low, Medium, or High risk/need.

The gender-informed assessment tool was found to have good predictive accuracy, with individual items and the overall rating being associated with the likelihood of experiencing any return to federal custody. Interestingly, comparable predictive accuracy was found for men.

Ratings included in the gender-informed assessment tool were moderately to strongly related to other established CSC case management tools (e.g., Static Factors Assessment, Dynamic Factors Identification and Analysis-Revised, and the Criminal Risk Index). Further, the gender-informed risk/need ratings incrementally predicted any return to federal custody over existing CSC tools.

### What it means

Overall, this research suggests that gender-responsive and gender-neutral risk and need factors provide complementary, not competing, information that contributes to assessing women offenders' risk. Incorporating a holistic approach to offender assessment produced useful information in the prediction of community outcomes and has the potential to improve existing case management tools. Nonetheless, additional research is required to validate this assessment tool on Indigenous women and to further explore hypothesized gender-responsive factors.

### For more information

Derkzen, D., Wardrop, K., & Wanamaker, K. (2019).

*Women offender assessment: Can gender-informed variables improve risk prediction?* (Research Report R-413). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

# R-416 - Women Who Sexually Offend: A Profile and Program Outcome Study

*Women sex offenders have high needs in the personal/emotional and family/marital domains. Completing the women's sex offender program increases offender skills.*

## Why we did this study

Although women sex offenders (WSOs) make up a small proportion of the federally sentenced offender population, understanding their characteristics is important for the design and implementation of appropriate interventions and case management strategies. In the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) the Women Sex Offender Program (WSOP), offered as part of CSC's continuum of care, consists of several modules that target past negative behaviour, beliefs and personal standards, management of emotions, communication, goal attainment, community functioning, relationships, and sexuality. The study aimed to: (1) examine the profile of WSOs, including demographic information, background history, offence and sentence characteristics, and risk/need information, and outcomes on release, and (2) assess the treatment gains and outcomes on release for those completing the WSOP.

## What we did

All WSOs under the supervision of CSC between January 2000 and December 2017 were included in the analyses pertaining to the profile of WSOs ( $n = 117$ ). For the portion of the research examining the impact of the sex offender program, the results of a subsample of WSOs who completed the WSOP as well as the results of the assessment battery completed between 2010 and 2017, were examined ( $n = 33$ ). To identify treatment gains, repeated measures t-tests analyses were conducted comparing mean scores on pre- and post-assessment measures.

## What we found

Results indicated that WSOs were typically in their 30s, White, and had less than a high school diploma. The average sentence length was just over three and half years. Victim information indicated that over a quarter of women offenders committed a sexual offence against a family member. Approximately 86% of victims were children. Over half of the sample had more than one victim most of whom were female children. The majority of WSOs were assessed as high-risk and demonstrated high-need in the personal/emotional and the family/marital domain, significantly higher than non sexual offenders.

For all WSOs released ( $n = 87$ ), 15% returned to custody prior to warrant expiry (mean follow-up = 12 months), one for a new offence. Post-warrant expiry, 18% of 72 women had at least one new reconviction based on CPIC files (mean follow-up = 57 months), two reconvictions were for sexual offenses, six for violent offences, and seven were for non-violent offences.

## Outcome on the WSOP

Completion rate for the WSOP was 82%. Those who completed the WSOP demonstrated increased emotional regulation, goal-oriented behaviour, self-efficacy, and problem-solving skills, and evidenced reduced loneliness, and fewer cognitive distortions and impulse control difficulties. Participants reported they were highly satisfied with the WSOP. Rate of return to custody prior to warrant expiry for those who completed the program and were released ( $n = 28$ ; average follow-up 12.5 months) was 10.7%; none returned for a new offence. Post warrant expiry ( $n = 21$ ) one woman returned to custody; this was for a sexual offence (average follow-up 22 months).

## What it means

This research highlighted the characteristics of federal WSOs. Results demonstrated that participation in the WSOP was associated with treatment gains. Further research using a larger sample size would allow more definite evidence as to the effectiveness of the WSOP intervention in reducing recidivism.

## For more information

Wanamaker, K. A., Derksen, D., De Moor, C., & Wardrop, K. (2018). *Women Who Sexually Offend: An Updated Profile and Program Outcome Study* (Research Report R-416). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**



# R-417 - Typologies of Sexual Offending of Federally-Sentenced Women: A Validation Study

*Women sex offenders can be classified into four typologies with distinct offending characteristics, pathways, and needs.*

## Why we did this study

Although the number of women who commit sexual offences is small, it is important to understand the motivations and factors underlying their sexual offending to facilitate the development of correctional programming and enhance reintegration efforts.

The current study was conducted to assess the validity of the Descriptive Model of Female Sexual Offending (DMFSO; Gannon, Rose, & Ward, 2008, 2010, 2012) used to classify women sex offenders into one of three typologies. Additionally, the current study assessed the validity of an additional typology (fourth) proposed by Lutfy and Derkzen (2014).

## What we did

The DMFSO is a women-specific offence process model that considers the role of cognitive, behavioural, affective, and contextual factors that lead up to a Women Sex Offender's (WSO's) index offence. It also takes into account the offenders' background factors as well as the pre-offence, offence, and post-offence periods. Based on these factors, it proposes three distinct typologies for WSOs: Explicit-Approach, Directed-Avoidant, and Implicit-Disorganized. In previous research the DMFSO had been found to be a reliable way to classify WSOs incarcerated in the Canadian federal correctional system (Lutfy & Derkzen, 2014); nevertheless, this research recommended an additional fourth pathway referred to as the Adopted-Approach.

Thirty-three women convicted of sexual offences who had participated in the women sex offender program (WSOP) between the years 2010 and 2017 were randomly selected to be included in the study. File information from criminal profiles, correctional plans, and psychological reports were coded independently by two researchers using the modified DMFSO Preliminary Offence Pathway Checklist (Gannon, Rose, & Ward, 2012; Lutfy & Derkzen, 2014).

## What we found

Just over 90% of the sample was classified into one of the four distinct pathways. Interrater reliability was conducted on about 50% of files with a classification agreement of 87.5%. However, low numbers made it difficult to establish a reliable level of interrater agreement on Implicit-Disorganized typology. The additional fourth typology proposed by Lutfy and Derkzen was also found in this sample and therefore appears to measure a unique WSO offending pattern. In total, the largest proportion of WSOs fell within the Explicit-Approach typology, followed by the Directed-Avoidant and Adopted-Approach. These results were consistent with those of Lutfy and Derkzen (2014) who reported similar proportions of WSOs within each typology.

## What it means

Findings suggest that file review instead of interviews could be used to apply the modified DMFSO (Gannon et al., 2010, 2012; Lutfy & Derkzen, 2014) to classify federally-sentenced WSOs to one of four distinct typologies. The largest single typology (over one-third of the women) offended for reasons of self-gratification and were not unduly influenced by a male co-accused.

Future research would benefit from using a larger sample of WSOs to examine the utility of the DMFSO and the additional fourth typology proposed by Lutfy and Derkzen for classifying WSOs and examining the recidivism rates within each typology would also aid with treatment efforts and risk assessment.

## For more information

Wanamaker, K. A., Derkzen, D., & De Moor, C. (2018). *A Validation of Four Pathways to Women Who Sexually Offend* (Research Report R-417). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## R-418 - Risk Factors Related to the Initial Security Classification of Women Offenders: A Literature Review

*Both gender-neutral and gender-responsive factors are related to institutional adjustment for women offenders.*

### Why we did this study

The security classification of offenders is a critical component of effective management within correctional institutions. Offenders' security classification level designates their living conditions, including the type of accommodation and movement allowed within the institution, as well as the programming available to them. Given its key role in the safety and security of institutions, it is important to ensure that offenders are classified as the appropriate security level, using valid tools.

To facilitate initial security classification, Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) currently uses the Custody Rating Scale (CRS) which consists of two independently scored subscales; the Institutional Adjustment (IA) subscale that assesses risks associated with institutional misconducts, and the Security Risk (SR) subscale that measures the amount of danger the offender would pose to the public upon escape. Importantly, concerns have been raised that 'gender-neutral' assessment tools, such as the CRS may not consider all the relevant factors for women offenders and could result in over (or under) classification.

### What we did

The current report reviewed the literature to identify factors that should be part of the determination of the initial security classification of women offenders. Evidence for potential risk factors that could be relevant across three outcomes -- institutional adjustment, escape risk, and risk to the public in the event of an escape -- was examined, as well as social history factors that could potentially be relevant for Indigenous women offenders. A comprehensive search of several databases including PSYCinfo, Criminal Justice Abstracts, Sociological abstracts, NCJRS, Government correctional agencies, Dissertations and Theses, and Google Scholar was conducted. The search was completed on July 6, 2018.

### What we found

Overall, results suggested that there was evidence that several gender-neutral factors (i.e., age, criminal history, sentence length, gang membership, IQ (lower), substance misuse, and education/employment) as well as factors commonly considered gender-responsive (i.e., history of trauma/abuse, mental health issues, relationship dysfunction, and parenting responsibilities)

were related to institutional adjustment and/or escapes for women offenders.

Research in CSC has shown that Indigenous women offenders typically have poorer institutional adjustment than non-Indigenous women and were more likely to be classified in a higher level of security. Importantly, Indigenous women offenders more frequently have substance use issues, residential school experiences, have been removed from their home at a young age, and have a history of trauma or abuse than non-Indigenous women offenders. It is unclear how some of these factors related to institutional adjustment.

### What it means

Several recommendations were proposed to reduce the likelihood of over-classifying women offenders' risk on their entry into institutions. These include: altering the weighting of items to reflect differential relationship of established predictors by gender and incorporating additional response options in items (to capture the unique experiences of women).

Notably, more research is needed to determine whether gender-responsive risk factors and culture specific factors for Indigenous women incrementally predict institutional outcomes over and above the contribution by gender-neutral risk factors alone. Further consideration needs to be given to the value of including items in a classification process that could raise privacy concerns and/or penalize women for their disadvantaged personal histories.

### For more information

Wanamaker, K. A. (2018). *Risk Factors Related to the Initial Security Classification of Women Offenders: A Literature Review* (Research Report R-418). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## SR-18-01 – 2018 International Survey of Correctional Services: Community Reintegration

*Organizations face similar community reintegration challenges and are using holistic and collaborative solutions.*

### Why we did this study

Correctional organizations experience a continuously changing landscape and must be proactive in addressing the challenges facing their agencies. For the fourth consecutive year, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has conducted an international consultation to gain a better understanding of the challenges nations face in their correctional organizations and the strategies used to address them. The survey focused on three areas of challenge in community reintegration: (1) community reintegration tools and intervention capacity, (2) community capacity, and (3) governance issues.

### What we did

The target sample included approximately 170 international correctional organizations affiliated with the ICPA, as well as Canadian provincial and territorial departments. Respondents were able to access the survey between May 18 and July 13, 2018. Fourteen correctional organizations representing eight countries responded to the survey.

### What we found

Overall, the results of this international consultation offered insights into current community reintegration efforts internationally:

- Even given the considerable diversity among the responding agencies and the characteristics of offenders under their care, the challenges they faced were often remarkably similar. Many of the participating correctional organizations noted common challenges concerning institutional and community infrastructure and the availability of community accommodation, social programs, and community employment opportunities.
- Fewer organizations indicated ongoing challenges in the area of governance, but those that did specifically noted struggles with legislation and policies that no longer reflected the current correctional reality. They also indicated that they did not have the resources to effectively track performance with regard to the efficacy of their organization.

Encouragingly, the responses indicated that correctional organizations are addressing these community reintegration challenges with a variety of creative solutions:

- Often this involves developing organization-wide strategies to improve access to a variety of rehabilitative and health services
- Developing procedures to prepare offenders for community reintegration before release, and
- Developing partnerships with community organizations and other government departments to improve offender outcomes.

Many agencies noted the need for their organizations to routinely assess the efficacy of these initiatives and critically evaluate progress towards their stated goals.

### What it means

On the whole, this international consultation, as well as consultations completed in previous years, highlight the value of international partnerships and knowledge sharing between correctional organizations. Over the last four years, organizations have regularly highlighted the importance of addressing challenges in a holistic manner and working with partners and stakeholders to address these challenges within the broader social framework. Agencies often face similar challenges and can benefit from disseminating knowledge on best practices.

### For more information

Correctional Service of Canada. (2018). *2018 International Survey of Correctional Services: Community Reintegration* (Special Report 18-01). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

## SR-18-02 – Overdose Incidents in Federal Custody: 2012/2013 – 2016/2017

***Overdose incidents in federal custody have increased over the past five years; most involve opioids and are non-fatal.***

### Why we did this study

The rise of drug overdose incidents, specifically those involving opioids, is a growing concern for Canadian society (Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses, 2018; Health Canada, 2017). While numerous reports have documented community trends, limited detailed data is available on trends in overdose incidents among custodial populations. This report furthers knowledge on this topic by examining all overdose incidents in federal custody over a five-year period (2012/2013 – 2016/2017).

### What we did

A data extraction of CSC's offender database, the Offender Management System (OMS), was conducted to identify all potential overdose incidents. A non-fatal overdose was defined as an incident where the consumption of drugs necessitated life-saving medical intervention (e.g. the administration of naloxone or cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Fatal overdose incidents were those officially determined as such in medical reports.

### What we found

Over the five-year period under examination, 330 incidents were identified for analysis. Over three-quarters of cases (77%) were identified as unintentional non-fatal overdose incidents, 15% were intentional non-fatal overdose incidents, and 7% were identified as fatal overdose incidents. The number of overdose incidents more than doubled in the five-year period, from 40 in 2012/2013, to 88 in 2016/2017. The increase in overdose incidents was particularly pronounced in the Prairie region, where 48% (42) of all overdose incidents occurred in 2016/2017 (compared to 20% (8) in 2012/2013).

In terms of the substances involved in overdoses, opioids were most common, suspected or confirmed in over half of all cases. Notably, the percentage of incidents involving fentanyl increased from 3% (1) in 2012/2013, to 26% (23) in 2016/2017. Fentanyl was the most common substance found in fatal incidents, noted in 36% (8) of cases.

While opioids were common in fatal and unintentional non-fatal overdose incidents (evident in 91% and 57% of cases respectively), they were seldom involved in intentional non-fatal overdose incidents. Such incidents most often involved prescription medications (e.g., anticonvulsants, antidepressants, cardiovascular medications), which were identified in 85% of cases.

Analysis of the profile information of offenders involved in overdose incidents revealed that they tended to be male (92%), Caucasian (58%) or Indigenous (36%), aged 25-34

(39%), classified as medium security (72%), serving relatively short (under 4 year) sentences (41%), with a violent major index offence (e.g. robbery; 31% and homicide; 21%).

Offenders involved in overdose incidents tended to have high needs in the area of mental health and substance use; 95% had histories of drug use, 54% histories of alcohol misuse, 92% had at least one mental health disorder identified, while 89% had histories of self-injurious/suicidal behaviour. Offenders also tended to have patterns of poor institutional adjustment, as measured by security and discipline incidents.

### What it means

These findings suggest that the community opioid crisis may be paralleled in custodial settings. As this crisis continues to affect the federal offender population, CSC remains committed to efforts to curb prison drug use and reduce the likelihood of overdose incidents. The widespread availability of naloxone in institutions, as well as CSC's take-home naloxone kit program, Opioid Substitution Treatment program, substance misuse programs, and the Prison Needle Exchange Program, constitute efforts to reduce the potential harms associated with drug use and improve offender health outcomes. This research further assists in CSC's goal of achieving safe custodial environments by contributing to knowledge on recent trends surrounding fatal and non-fatal drug overdose incidents in custody.

### References

Special Advisory Committee on the Epidemic of Opioid Overdoses (2018). *Apparent opioid-related deaths in Canada (January 2016 to December 2017)*. Web-based Report. Ottawa, ON: Public Health Agency of Canada.

Health Canada. (2017). *Government of Canada actions on opioids 2016 and 2017*. Ottawa, ON: Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Health.

### For more information

McKendy, L., Biro, S., & Keown, L. A. (2018). *Overdose Incidents in Federal Custody, 2012/2013 – 2016/2017* (Special Report SR-18-02). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

# RIB-18-04 - Examining the Case Characteristics of Federal Offenders in Administrative Segregation

*Characteristics of offenders in administrative segregation set them apart from others and offer targets for intervention.*

## Why we are doing this study

A substantial decline for federal offender counts in administrative segregation has been observed in recent years. From April 2014 to March 2018, the federal offender population in administrative segregation showed a decrease of 56.4% (from 780 to 340). Currently, exploring the characteristics of those in administrative segregation yields some important information especially with respect to developing alternatives for those not requiring mental health interventions to further reduce the utilization of administrative segregation in federal corrections.

## What we did

All federal offenders in administrative segregation were drawn from Correctional Service of Canada's (CSC) Offender Management System on March 4, 2018. On that date there were 340 offenders in administrative segregation (334 men and 6 women). In accordance with the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (31-A, B, C), the reasons for administrative segregation placement were: 182 (or 53.5%) *jeopardizes the security of the institution or the safety of any person*, 23 (or 6.8%) *interferes with an investigation* and 135 (or 39.7%) *inmate is in danger*. Given the relatively low representation of women offenders in administration segregation the focus of this research is on men only. For men offenders, the assigned Offender Security Level (OSL) at time of placement was found to be: 199 (or 62%) maximum, 117 (or 36%) medium and 6 (or 2%) minimum.

## What we found

Examinations of two objective measures used to gather criminal history background (Criminal Risk Index) and security level designation (Custody Rating Scale) at intake to federal custody revealed little difference in risk scores or security designations across the various reasons for segregation placement. However, substantial differences did emerge for the administrative segregation population relative to the institutional population with respect to CRI high/very high risk of re-offending (67% and 38%, respectively) and CRS maximum security designation (59% and 31%, respectively).

On the other hand, for Dynamic Factors Identification and Analysis (case needs) assessed at intake to federal custody there were considerable differences observed between those in administrative segregation and the comparison group, the institutional population. The administrative segregation population relative to the comparison group were found to be

rated as "high needs" (92% and 64%, respectively). More specifically, offenders in administrative segregation were more likely to be assessed as "high needs" in the Personal/Emotional domain (66% and 47%, respectively); "high needs" in the Attitudes domain (64% and 38% respectively); and "high needs" in the Substance Abuse domain (58% and 41%, respectively).

Some noteworthy comparative case characteristics for the administrative segregation population relative to the institutional population in the Personal/Emotional domain include the following: impulsive (92% and 70%, respectively), limited in ability to generate choices (87% and 67%, respectively), have difficulty solving interpersonal problems (81% and 63%, respectively), has low frustration tolerance (74% and 40%, respectively) and frequently acts in an aggressive manner (72% and 35%, respectively).

Moreover, in the Attitude domain there were found to be case characteristics such as: displays non-conforming attitudes towards society (91% and 68%, respectively); displays negative attitudes towards the criminal justice system (83% and 57%, respectively); attitudes support instrumental/goal-oriented violence (76% and 45%, respectively); and displays negative attitudes towards the correctional system (73% and 30%, respectively).

## What it means

In developing viable and safe alternatives to being placed in administrative segregation for offenders not requiring a mental health intervention, it is suggested that they be:

- managed in highly structured units with active routines;
- provided a stimulating environment; and
- have strategies in place to reduce treatment resistance.

Importantly, programs being delivered to these offenders should be targeted at problem solving, anger management, violence prevention, interpersonal relations and substance misuse.

## 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.

**Prepared by:** Larry Motiuk and Leslie-Anne Keown

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

# RIB-18-05 - Forecasted and Actual Federal Custody Populations: 2017-2018

*Recent population forecasts of federal custody populations appear to be viable and accurate.*

## Why we are doing this study

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) refreshed its institutional population forecasts in 2017. A previously developed forecasting model was applied to produce new population estimates from the end of March 2017 to the year-end of 2027. The following provides a status report on the accuracy of the new population estimates after one-year in 2018.

## What we did

A forecasting database of weekly snapshots of institutional counts from 1990/91 to 2016/17 was derived from the CSC Offender Management System. The historical time series in-custody population database was used to develop alternative and provisional scenarios for men and women up to 2027. Projections for men and women offenders in federal custody were estimated separately, as historical trends for these two groups differ significantly.

SAS/ETS software was used for exploring and analyzing univariate time series data and to select the best-fitting model. Computing estimates for each security level across the five administrative regions of CSC added precision by taking into account variations that occur over time with these sub-populations.

## What we found

Population forecasts are taken to the last Tuesday midnight institutional count of the fiscal year. On 27 March 2018, the national actual “physically-in” count was reported to be 13,967. By fiscal year-end 2017-18, the national forecast was estimated to be 13,942. Overall, there was found to be a slight forecast difference of -25, a very narrow margin of error was obtained -0.18% (or <.5%).

With respect to men in-custody on 27 March 2018, the actual count was reported to be 13,288. For fiscal year-end 2017-18, the forecast for men was estimated to be 13,258. For men, there was found to be a smaller forecast difference of -30, similarly a very thin margin of error was obtained -0.23% (or <.5%).

In relation to women in-custody on 27 March 2018, the actual count was reported to be 679. For fiscal year-end

2017-18, the forecast for women was estimated to be 684. For women, there was found to be a small forecast difference of +5, again a narrow margin of error was obtained +0.73% (or < 1%).

For regional forecasts, the smaller population bases necessarily increase the forecast to observed differences. Variation (+/-) in differences was observed across the regions. Not surprisingly, differences were relatively small and cumulatively offsetting at the national level.

## National and Regional Population Forecasts 2017-2018

Fiscal Year-end	Forecast	Observed Value	Forecast to Observed Difference	% Error
Atlantic	1,318	1,300	+18	+1.36
Quebec	2,997	2,988	+9	+0.30
Ontario	3,424	3,513	-89	-2.60
Prairies	4,062	3,998	+64	+1.58
Pacific	2,141	2,168	-27	-1.26
<b>National</b>	<b>13,942</b>	<b>13,967</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-0.18</b>
Men	13,258	13,288	-30	-0.23
Women	684	679	+5	+0.73

## What it means

All-in-all, the national institutional count is reflective of the end-of-year national forecast estimates. As had been anticipated, by year end the actual count landed proximal to the forecasted estimates. At this time, it appears that the current approach to CSC population forecasting exercises is methodologically sound and continued evaluation assists in the development of future models.

## 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.

**Prepared by:** Larry Motiuk and Ben Vuong

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

# RIB-18-06 - Explaining the Decline in the Federal Custody Population

*Declines in the federal custody population are a result of efficient preparation for safe release and effective case management.*

## Why we are doing this study

Over the past five years, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has seen a noteworthy decline (-1,257 or 8.7%) in the federal in-custody population from 15,224 at year-end in 2012-13 to 13,967 in 2017-18. On the other hand, there has been a substantial rise (+1,539 or 20.2%) in the conditional release supervision population from 7,628 at year-end in 2012-13 to 9,167 in 2017-18. Understanding why changes in custodial trend lines have occurred can facilitate the allocation of operational resources.

## 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 (April 15, 2018) 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 population was undertaken.

## What we found

Overall, admissions to federal custody have dropped from 8,069 in 2012-13 to 6,960 in 2017-18; a substantial difference of -1,109 (or -13.7%). When unpacking this decline by type of federal admission it is notable that returns to federal custody through conditional release revocations have dropped substantially from 2,893 in 2012-13 to 2,125 in 2017-18, a difference of -768 (or -26.5%). The decline in conditional release revocations accounts for 69% of the drop in total federal admissions.

On the other hand, total releases from federal custody appear to have declined from 7,845 in 2012-13 to 7,511 in 2017-18. Again, unpacking total releases by type it is

noteworthy that there has been a steady rise in day parole releases from 1,828 in 2012-13 to 2,621 in 2017-18; a difference of +793 (or +43.4%). This is in marked contrast to the decline in statutory releases from 5,588 in 2012-13 to 4,429 in 2017-18; a difference of -1,159 (or -20.7%). While it may appear that there has been a decrease in the number of conditional releases, there has been a substantial increase in earlier releases on day parole resulting in less days spent incarcerated for a considerable portion of the federal offender population.

## National Population Flows: 2012-2013 to 2017-18

Fiscal Year	Total Admissions	Admissions (Revocations)	Total Releases	Releases (Day Parole)
2012-13	8,069	2,893	7,845	1,828
2013-14	7,900	2,715	7,995	1,882
2014-15	7,397	2,503	7,827	1,975
2015-16	7,449	2,476	7,919	2,130
2016-17	7,154	2,146	7,837	2,527
2017-18	6,960	2,125	7,511	2,621

## What it means

Notwithstanding the fact that more federal offenders have been released earlier in their sentence and managed safely in the community, it is the combined efforts at efficient preparation for safe release and effective case management that has resulted in a significant decline in the federal in-custody population.

## 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.

**Prepared by:** Larry Motiuk

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

# RIB-18-09 - Forecasted and Actual Federal Community Populations: 2017-2018

*Recent population forecasts of federal community supervision populations appear to be viable and accurate.*

### Why we are doing this study

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) refreshed its community supervision population forecasts in 2017. A previously developed forecasting model was applied to produce new population estimates from the end of March 2017 to the year-end of 2027. The following provides a status report on the accuracy of the new population estimates after one-year in 2018.

### What we did

A forecasting database of weekly snapshots of institutional counts from 1990/91 to 2016/17 was derived from the CSC Offender Management System. The historical time series community supervision population database was used to develop alternative and provisional scenarios for men and women up to 2027. Projections for men and women offenders under community supervision were estimated separately, as historical trends for these two groups differ significantly.

Population forecasts are taken to the last Tuesday midnight institutional count of the fiscal year. SAS/ETS software was used for exploring and analyzing univariate time series data and to select the best-fitting model. Computing estimates for each community supervision across the five administrative regions of CSC added precision by taking into account variations that occur over time with these sub-populations.

### What we found

On 27 March 2018, the national actual community supervision count was reported to be **9,167**. By fiscal year-end 2017-18, the national forecast was estimated to be **9,004**. Overall, there was found to be a forecast difference of -163, a small margin of error was obtained -1.78% (or <2%).

With respect to men under community supervision on 27 March 2018, the actual count was reported to be **8,459**. For fiscal year-end 2017-18, the forecast for men was estimated to be **8,365**. For men, there was found to be a forecast difference of -94, similarly a small margin of error was obtained -1.12%.

In relation to women under community supervision on 27 March 2018, the actual count was reported to be **708**. For fiscal year-end 2017-18, the forecast for women was estimated to be **639**. For women, there was found to be a relatively large forecast difference of -69, a greater margin of error was obtained +10.8%.

For regional forecasts, the smaller population bases necessarily increase the forecast to observed differences. Variation (+/-) in differences was observed across the regions.

### National and Regional Population Forecasts 2017-2018

Fiscal Year-end	Forecast	Observed Value	Forecast to Observed Difference	% Error
Atlantic	875	884	-9	-1.03
Quebec	2,465	2,373	+92	+3.72
Ontario	2,388	2,456	-68	-2.84
Prairies	1,984	2,106	-122	-0.61
Pacific	1,292	1,384	-92	-7.12
<b>National</b>	<b>9,004</b>	<b>9,167</b>	<b>-163</b>	<b>-1.81</b>
Men	8,365	8,459	-94	-1.12
Women	639	708	-69	-10.80

### What it means

The national community supervision count being higher than the end-of-year national forecast estimate is reflective of increased efforts being directed at preparation for safe release and more offenders being granted a discretionary release. At this time, it appears that the current approach to CSC community population forecasting is relatively sound and continued examination of regional variations will assist in the development of future models.

### 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.

Prepared by: Larry Motiuk and Ben Vuong

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**



# RIB-18-14 - Exploring Release Outcomes in the Romanian Prison Service

*A revised algorithmic scale that was developed to help identify release potential can also predict returns to custody.*

## Why we are doing this study

Previous research identified a valid algorithmic scale for the Romanian Prison Service (RPS) in which scores could be automatically calculated from available information and yield reliable probability estimates of release decisions.<sup>13</sup> Psychometric review and revisions of an initial algorithm led to item reductions and substantial improvements in predictive accuracy. Examining the scale's ability to predict future returns to custody is the next step towards extending the utility of the revised algorithm to be used assisting in the successful reintegration of offenders.

## What we did

Offender information was extracted from RPS's automated database. Complete data pertaining to demographic, criminal history, prison performance and community work were available for 4,575 offenders who had recorded a first assessment and were subsequently released to the community. Of those in the study group, 3.7% (169) were female offenders and 96.3% (4,406) were male offenders. Approximately 7% (312) of the study group returned to custody after release. Interestingly, of those who received a positive decision to be released early 3% (41) returned to custody whereas 8% (271) who did not receive a positive decision returned to custody. In other words, 87% of those who returned to custody did not receive a positive decision to be released early.

The algorithmic equation was derived from nine separate items in a scoring system that yielded probability estimates of release decisions: demographic (education); criminal history (prior adult offending, offence groupings, and sentence length); prison performance (sanctions, credits earned/lost, and security level increases); and, community work. Each item is statistically associated with decisions and scored using the Burgess method. This method applies positive scores to individual items, based on differences between endorsed items and population decision to release rates.

Simple summation of item scores yields a possible total ranging from 0 to +32. In this study, total scores for the revised equation ranged from 2 to 31 (Mean=14.9, SD=6.0).

## What we found

Simple Pearson correlation coefficients indicated statistically significant relationships between all nine items and returns to custody [*sanctions imposed*  $r = -.78$  ( $p < .0001$ ), *offence type*  $r = -.12$  ( $p < .0001$ ), *credits lost*  $r = -.11$  ( $p < .0001$ ), *prior adult offending*  $r = -.10$  ( $p < .0001$ ), *education*  $r = -.10$  ( $p < .0001$ ), *security level increase*  $r = -.09$  ( $p < .0001$ ), *credits earned*  $r = -.06$  ( $p < .001$ ), *community work*  $r = -.05$  ( $p < .001$ ), and *sentence length*  $r = -.03$  ( $p < .05$ )]. As had been found with identifying release potential, summation of the revised algorithm total scores yielded a stronger association with return to custody ( $r = -.15$ ,  $p < .0001$ ) than the initial version ( $r = -.11$ ,  $p < .0001$ ).

Again in this study, the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) was used to calculate true positive and false positive rates for the initial and revised algorithm. In this study, Area under the Curve (AUC) results revealed that the revised algorithm was found to be statistically significant and robust at 0.667 whereas for the initial algorithm it was found to be weaker at 0.591.

## What it means

Results show that the revised algorithmic scale with a restricted set of items can accurately identify release potential and release outcomes in the Romanian prison population. The study finds a valid algorithmic scale for which scores can be automatically calculated from available information. Finally, the utility of the revised algorithm could be extended to assist in the successful reintegration of offenders.

## 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.

**Prepared by:** Larry Motiuk and Leslie-Anne Keown

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

<sup>13</sup> Motiuk, L. & Keown, LA. (2017). *The Identification of Release Potential in the Romanian Prison Service*. Research in Brief 17-08. Correctional Service Canada.

# RIB-18-16 - Changes in the Size of the Federal Offender Population: 2000 to 2018

*Historical federal population trend lines show a recent decline in custody and rise under community supervision.*

## Why we are doing this study

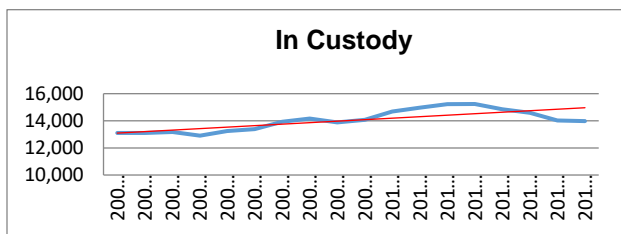
The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) regularly conducts population forecasts and monitors historical trends of federal offender counts both in custody and under community supervision.<sup>14,15</sup> The systematic monitoring of breaks in a longer-term line can help to signal when net demand for accommodation and intervention capacity might be mounting, weakening or being met.

## What we did

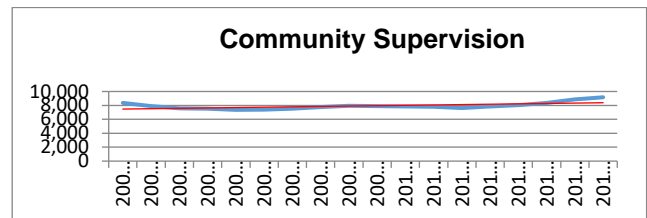
Historical year-end federal in custody and under community supervision counts are recorded as standardized reports in CSC's Corporate Reporting System-Modernized (CRS-M). Data between Fiscal Year (FY) 2000-2001 and 2017-2018 were extracted from CRS-M to establish 18-year trend lines.

## What we found

Since the turn of the millennium the federal in custody population has increased by +872 (or 6.7%). However, since peaking in 2013-2014 at 15,288 the in custody population has steadily declined to 13,967 (-1,321 or -8.6%) by year-end 2017-2018. As displayed in the figure below, there were several notable breaks in the 18-year trend line, the significant rise above beginning in 2010-2011 followed by a major decline below in 2015-2016.



Similarly, the federal population under community supervision has increased by +819 (or 9.8%) since 2000-2001. However, since 2013-2014 at 7,681 the community population has steadily increased to 9,167 (+1,306 or +16.6%) by year-end 2017-2018. As displayed in the figure, there is a noteworthy break in the 18-year trend line with the substantial rise above beginning in 2015-2016.



## What it means

The national in custody count being well below the longer-term trend-line and the community supervision counts being well above is reflective of recent efforts directed at preparation for safe release and more offenders being granted a discretionary release. This examination of longer-term trend-lines suggests that the current approach to safe reintegration is viable.

## 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.

Prepared by: Larry Motiuk

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

<sup>14</sup> Motiuk, L. & Vuong, B. (2018). *Forecasted and Actual Federal Custody Populations: 2017-2018*. Research in Brief 18-05, Correctional Service Canada.

<sup>15</sup> Motiuk, L. & Vuong, B. (2018). *Forecasted and Actual Federal Community Populations: 2017-2018*. Research in Brief 18-09, Correctional Service Canada.

# RIB-18-18 - Exploring "Inside-to-Outside" Ratios in Federal Corrections

*Lower ratios of federal offenders in custody compared to community supervision is the result of effective case management.*

## Why we are doing this study

Over recent years, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has seen a very slight increase (+35 or <.2%) in offenders under federal jurisdiction [from 23,099 at year-end in 2013-14 to 23,134 in 2017-18]. While it appears that federal offenders in custody had peaked in 2013-14, it has been in decline (1,271 or 8.3%) since then. On the other hand, there has been steady growth (+1,306 or 16.6%) in the conditional release supervision population from 7,861 at year-end in 2013-14 to 9,167 in 2017-18. It is also noteworthy that these changes have shifted the "inside-to-outside" ratio. The "inside-to-outside" ratio refers to how many offenders are in custody compared to how many are out under community supervision. Recognizing shifts over time in ratios at national and regional levels can facilitate the allocation of programming and operational resources.

## What we did

Year-end federal in custody and out under 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 (August 15, 2018) capacity module to establish trends (2013-14 to 2017-18) of the custody and under community supervision population counts. Then, a closer examination of the regional "inside-to-outside" ratios was undertaken.

## What we found

Overall, the ratio of federal offenders in custody relative to being out under community supervision has lowered from 66:34 in 2013-14 to 60:40 in 2017-18; a substantial percentage differential of -6% inside to +6% outside. As displayed in the tables, when unpacking this decrease by regions it is notable that "inside-to-outside" ratios have lowered over time across all regions.

Among the regions, by 2017-18 the "inside-to-outside" ratio for Quebec has lowered the most whereas the Prairies continues to remain the highest.

## National Population Counts: 2013-14

Region	# In / Out	(Total)	% In : Out
Atlantic	1,556 / 781	(2,337)	66.6 : 33.4
Quebec	3,716 / 2,027	(5,743)	64.7 : 35.3
Ontario	3,761 / 1,955	(5,716)	65.8 : 34.2
Prairies	3,909 / 1,847	(5,756)	67.9 : 32.1
Pacific	2,206 / 1,251	(3,457)	63.8 : 36.2
<b>National</b>	15,238 / 7,861	(23,099)	66.0 : 34.0

## National Population Counts: 2017-18

Region	# In / Out	(Total)	% In : Out
Atlantic	1,300 / 884	(2,184)	59.5 : 40.5
Quebec	2,988 / 2,373	(5,361)	55.7 : 44.3
Ontario	3,513 / 2,456	(5,969)	58.9 : 41.1
Prairies	3,998 / 2,106	(6,104)	65.5 : 34.5
Pacific	2,168 / 1,348	(3,516)	61.7 : 38.3
<b>National</b>	13,967 / 9,167	(23,134)	60.0 : 40.0

## What it means

Notwithstanding the fact that overall growth of the federal offender population has dampened, it appears that more offenders are being released earlier in their sentence and managed safely in the community. It is the combined efforts at efficient preparation for safe release and effective case management that has resulted in shift towards increasing proportion of federally sentenced offenders under community supervision than in 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.

Prepared by: Larry Motiuk

**ONE-PAGER ONLY**

## R-407 - Profiling Escapes from Federal Custody 2011/2012 - 2016/2017

*Escapes from federal custody are typically non-violent, involve minimum security male offenders, and are most common in the Prairie region. The most common identified motivation for escape is the desire to obtain contraband.*

### Why we did this study

In Canada, escapes from federal custody have not been systematically examined since Johnson and Motiuk's research on escapes from minimum security institutions in the early 1990s. While the number of escapes from federal institutions has declined over the last 10 years, there remains a need to understand these incidents so that more effective preventative policies and measures can be developed.

### What we did

All documented escapes from federal custody between fiscal years 2011/2012 and 2016/2017 for which there was sufficient information were examined, resulting in a total of 91 cases. Data was extracted from Board of Investigation (BOI) reports, situation reports, incident reports, warden situation reports and the Offender Management System (OMS). Information was coded to identify: (1) the circumstances under which escapes occur; (2) the profile of offenders who engage in escape behaviours; and (3) the factors that may contribute to an offender's decision to escape.

### What we found

The vast majority (97%) of examined escapes were from minimum security institutions, including healing lodges, and most involved the offender absconding on foot without the use of force. Most offenders who escaped were peacefully recaptured within three days of the incident.

Escapes were most likely to occur in the Prairie region, where 42% of all escape incidents took place. Escapes most often occurred on Sundays, during the evening period (i.e., between 6:00 PM and 12:00 AM) and between July and September. Escapes tended to occur soon after the offender arrived to the institution of escape; more specifically, 73% of escapes occurred within six months of transfer/admission.

The characteristics of offenders who escaped from custody varied by region, however, overall, offenders tended to be male (97%), White (54%) or Indigenous (43%), serving their first federal sentence (71%), often for property-related offences (57%) and other non-violent offences (66%). Most (78%) escapes involved offenders under the age of 45, with offenders in the 25-34 age category being most likely to escape.

Offenders' motivations for escapes were often unknown, however, the most common identified motivation was the desire to obtain contraband (usually tobacco). This was particularly evident in the Pacific region, where 44% of escapes were motivated by this goal.

### What it means

While most offenders in custody do not engage in escape-related behaviours, CSC is committed to learning from these incidents. By identifying the circumstances under which escapes are most likely to occur, the profile of offenders who undertake escapes, and the factors that may contribute to the decision to escape, the findings of this study can assist in the development of more effective and preventative policies.

### For more information

McKendy, L. and Keown, L.A. (2018). *Profiling Escapes from Federal Custody 2011/2012 - 2016/2017* (Research Report R-407). Ottawa, Ontario: Correctional Service of Canada.

To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, 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.

**FULL REPORT AVAILABLE**

# Need more Information?

**Visit the CSC Research Website:**

<http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/>

**Research Publications:**

<http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/research/>



**Research at CSC is on Gconnex**

<https://gconnex.gc.ca/groups/profile/24766995/research-at-csc>

**Submitting a Research Proposal at CSC**

<http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/research/005008-5001-eng.shtml>

**General Research Inquiries:** [research@csc-scc.gc.ca](mailto:research@csc-scc.gc.ca)