# **CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA**

CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.

# Pandemic Era Older Offenders (65+) in Canadian Federal Corrections

The older (65+) offender population in custody and under community supervision continued to grow during the pandemic era.

#### Why we are doing this study

Marked by the occurrence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) experienced an unprecedented decline (-1,392 or 10.1 %) in the federal incustody population from 13,720 at year-end in 2019-20 to 12,328 in 2021-22. Similarly, there was also a major decline (-903 or 9.6%) in the community supervision population from 9,382 at year-end in 2019-20 to 8,479 in 2021-22. An earlier study¹ had found that prior to the pandemic over a five year period (2012-13 to 2017-18) there had been a substantial increase of older (65+) both in federal custody (+530 or 41.4%) and under community supervision (+372 or 50.3%). Understanding whether this trend was sustained during the pandemic era can facilitate the allocation of programming and 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.

### What we found

Over the pandemic period to 2021-2022 there continued to be an increase of older (65+) in federal custody (+41 or 5.9%) and under community supervision (+159 or 13.6%).

Older Offenders (65+): 2019-20 to 2021-22

Fiscal Year-end	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Custody	695	701	672	736
Community	1,168	1,245	1,307	1,327
Total	1,863	1,946	1,979	2,063
Growth Δ		+83	+33	+84
Ratio In/Out	37/63	36/64	34/66	36/64

Overall, admissions to federal custody for older offenders rose from **167** in *2018-19* to **187** in *2021-22*; a difference of **+20** (or +12 %). When unpacking this increase by type of federal admission it is notable that the number of 65+ admissions to federal custody through conditional release revocations remained relatively the same at 36 in *2018-19* and 37 in *2021-22*. Consequently, some of the growth in the older offender population was due to the increase of

new warrant of committal admissions from 126 in 2018-19 to 149 in 2021-22; a difference of +23 (or 18%). On the other hand, the number of older offenders (65+) released from federal custody appears to have decreased from 243 in 2018-19 to 211 in 2021-22; a difference of -32 (or 13.2%). Again, unpacking total releases by type it is noteworthy that there was an increase in day parole releases from 120 in 2018-19 to 158 in 2020-21 and then a decrease to 104 in 2021-22.

While there was a decline in older admissions in year 1 (2020-21) of the pandemic era, there had been an initial rise in earlier releases on day parole, however in year two (2021-22) there was a notable decline. This trend break may be an artifact of the CSC case review exercise undertaken at the beginning of the pandemic to identify and case prepare 65+ release eligible offenders and deemed to be good candidates for discretionary release consideration by the Parole Board of Canada.

National Population Flows: 2019-20 to 2021-22

Fiscal	Total	65+	Total	65+				
Year	Admissions	Admissions	Releases	Releases				
2018-19	7,333	167	7,269	243				
2019-20	6,998	177	7,245	250				
2020-21	5,279	128	6,725	266				
2021-22	6,268	187	6,607	211				

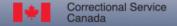
#### What it means

Although the older offender population in federal custody continued to grow during the pandemic era, it appears that more older persons (65+) were being released earlier in their sentence and were managed safely in the community. Collective efforts at efficient case preparation and effective supervision have resulted in a sustained trend of more older offenders being released each year than admitted to federal custody.

### For more information

Please e-mail the <u>Research Branch</u>. You can also visit the <u>Research Publications</u> section for a full list of reports and one-page summaries.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> RIB-19-07 - Older Offenders (65+) in Canadian Federal Corrections (2019)