

FORUM

ON CORRECTIONS RESEARCH

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issue**

**Research
Summaries**

R-56, 1997

to

R-95, 2000



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FORUM reviews applied research related to corrections policy, programming and management issues. It also features original articles contributed by staff of the Correctional Service of Canada and other international researchers and practitioners.

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FORUM invites contributions to any section of the magazine from researchers in the field. Please send your contributions to

Larry Motiuk, Ph.D.
Director General — Research Branch
Correctional Service of Canada
340 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0P9

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Please contact:

Research Branch
Correctional Service of Canada
340 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0P9

Facsimile: (613) 941-8477
E-mail: reslib@magi.com

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Editor: Larry Motiuk
Assistant Editor: Dean Jones
Associate Editor: Cathy Delnef
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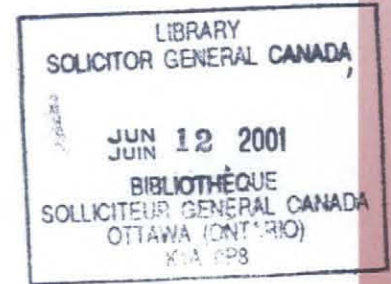
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FORUM

ON CORRECTIONS RESEARCH



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Larry Motiuk, Ph.D.
Director General, Research Branch
Corporate Development
Correctional Service of Canada
340 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P9
Fax: (613) 941-8477

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Special issue: Research summaries

This is our second special edition, presenting 40 summarized research reports, published by the Research Branch of the Correctional Service of Canada, which address a broad range of offender and corrections issues within institutional and community settings. These studies reflect the efforts of researchers within the Correctional Service of Canada as well as in private, academic, and international sectors.

The reports in this issue of FORUM are presented in summary format and are available in their entirety through the Correctional Service of Canada's Web site: <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca>

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A model for a clinically-informed risk assessment strategy for sex offenders (R-56, 1997)

Ralph Serin, Howard Barbaree, Michael Seto, Bruce Malcolm, and Ed Peacock

The purpose of this study is to integrate conceptual models regarding assessment strategies, contemporary intervention, and empirically derived predictors of sexual or violent recidivism in sex offenders. Recent research regarding the assessment and treatment of sex offenders supports the conclusion that sexual aggression is a complexly determined phenomenon, with varied antecedents and sequelae. Perpetrators of sexual crimes differ in their personal and criminal histories. The circumstances preceding their offences, their age and gender preferences, the attitudes and beliefs that support their deviant behaviour, and the degree to which they have used force or brutality or caused physical harm to their victims. Thus, sexual offenders are a heterogeneous group of individuals, with diverse evaluative and treatment needs. The report further suggests that multi-method assessment is also important with suggestions for psychological testing, physiological assessment of sexual preference, file reviews, behavioral observations, and clinical interviews. The authors believe the investigation of systematic multi-method assessments completed on large numbers of sex offenders can provide clarity, such that a differential assessment of risk is possible.

It is the goal of the researchers to develop a model that represents literature from each of these important areas regarding the management of sex offenders, and that the final model will be generic across types of sex offenders (rapists, child

molesters, incest offenders), but will incorporate information specific for these subtypes. In this way, differentiated assessment strategies will potentially be possible. In order to test this model, two relatively large samples of sex offenders were required, preferably one being a treatment sample to evaluate some aspects of treatment efficacy. The assessment sample (n > 800) is from the Millhaven Assessment Unit (MAU) which assesses all sex offenders admitted to the Ontario Region. The treatment sample (n > 450) is from the Warkworth Sexual Behaviour Clinic (WSBC) which has provided cognitive behavioral treatment with a relapse prevention component over the past 8 years.

The intent of the researchers is to develop a conceptually-driven risk assessment strategy, and test it using the MAU sample, and validate it using the WSBC sample. The importance of this initiative is it attempts to provide empirical support for the clinical assessment protocols presently recommended in standards for sex offender assessment. Further, by aggregating across samples, it can determine the extent to which a case differentiated assessment for sex offenders is viable. Finally, by employing samples of treated and untreated offenders, the researchers are able to determine the extent to which this case differentiated assessment strategy informs both the identification of treatment needs and treatment outcome. ■

What's new?...

The Honourable Lawrence A. MacAulay, P.C., M.P., Solicitor General of Canada and Lucie McClung, Commissioner, Correctional Service Canada officially opened the Addictions Research Centre in Montague, Prince Edward Island on Friday, May 18, 2001. The Addictions Research Centre will encourage and stimulate addiction research in criminal justice and develop a co-ordinated program of applied research activity across jurisdictions. It is part of the Research Branch of the Correctional Service of Canada.

Case characteristics of segregated offenders in federal corrections (R-57, 1997)

Larry L. Motiuk, and Kelley Blanchette

This investigation yielded comprehensive information pertaining to the federal segregated offender population. While the findings of this study may be limited only to federally sentenced offenders in segregation, it was learned that this group of offenders could be characterized by the presence of "static" risk factors (such as previous exposure to the criminal justice system) and the presence of a wide array of "dynamic" risk factors (such as poor education, skills deficits, family dysfunction, antisocial attachments and isolation, chemical dependencies, a host of thinking problems and procriminal attitudes).

The abundance of case-specific factors which set segregated offenders apart from non-segregated offenders points to a need for a screening protocol to identify them at the earliest possible moment in their sentence as "at-risk". Such a tool would increase the ability to target those who are likely to experience adjustment difficulties while serving their sentence. In keeping with case management practice, regular reflection on the outputs of ongoing offender risk/need assessments could provide a useful means of monitoring changes among "at-risk" offenders. This would provide the opportunity for proactive interventions related to a unique set of behaviours, attitudes and circumstances that appear to be clearly related to eventual placement in administrative segregation.

Case-specific information was available from the Offender Intake Assessment (OIA) process for 678 segregated offenders. The OIA process collects comprehensive information on each offender's criminal and mental health history, social situation, education and other factors relevant to determining criminal risk and identifying offender needs. Additional information was obtained from available Statistical Information on Recidivism (SIR) scales (used to assess risk of re-offence) and Custody Rating Scales (which assesses for initial security level placement). While this information provides a basis for determining the offender's institutional placement and for establishing a correctional plan, it can also be used to produce detailed profiles of various segments of the offender population.

The design of the study also involved random selection of a comparison group of non-segregated offenders in Correctional Service of Canada's institutions. These groups were used to make comparisons on a wide variety of case-specific variables. After comparisons were made between "segregated" and "non-segregated" offender groups, the researchers tested for significant differences between "voluntary" and "involuntary" segregated offenders. ■

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Risk and need among federally-sentenced female offenders: A comparison of minimum, medium, and maximum-security inmates (R-58, 1997)

Kelley Blanchette

This study compared women offenders by security level (either "minimum", "medium", or "maximum") on a variety of criteria: risk (security and escape), criminogenic need, and suicide potential. For this study, Correctional Service of Canada's automated Offender Management System was used, and all available data for federally sentenced women offenders was extracted. As of January 14, 1997, data for institutional security level was available for 212 women offenders, and revealed that 34% (72) were designated "minimum-security", 49% (103) were "medium-security", and the remaining 17% (37) were "maximum-security."

Initial comparisons focused on demographic information (age, race), that was available for the entire sample (72 minimum-, 103 medium- and 37 maximum-security offenders). Statistical analyses revealed that the maximum-security women offenders were significantly younger than their medium — and minimum-security counterparts. For the former, ages ranged from 21 to 45 years old, with a mean age of 28.7 years. The age range for those in medium-security was 20 to 63, with a mean age of 34.2. Finally, those in minimum-security ranged in age from 19 to 52, with a mean age of 35.8. Analysis of race distributions revealed that women offenders in maximum-security were also more likely to be

Aboriginal. While about 15% of those in medium- or minimum-security were Aboriginal, this was the case for 41% of maximum-security women.

This report is an addendum to a previous investigation that compared federally sentenced women offenders across two level securities. While the earlier study compared medium-security women to their maximum-security counterparts, the present study expanded comparisons across all three-security designations.

Results from this study demonstrate that as security level increases, there is a corresponding increase in multiple parameters of risk and need as assessed at admission to federal custody. Moreover, federally-sentenced women in maximum-security clearly show the greatest suicide risk potential, relative to their lower-security counterparts.

Furthermore, this study served to elucidate some basic differences between those women offenders designated "maximum-security", those designated "medium-security", and those designated "minimum-security." Analyses in the present study have demonstrated diversity between groups, with results suggesting higher risk/needs profiles for those in maximum security. ■

Review of the offender population forecast: Models, data and requirements — with provisional forecasts for 1998 to 2007 (R-59, 1997)

Roger Boe

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has employed several different forecasting methodologies and systems over the years. This reflects both the changing requirements of end users and improvements in the offender population forecast technology available. This report reviews the evolution and

helps to better understand the current situation and the directions being taken.

Different approaches to offender population forecasting that the CSC had used ranges from fairly simple extrapolations of recent trends in inmate population level, tempered by subjective judgment

about regional variation from national growth, to an extensive population simulation system encompassing different techniques, sources of information, planning applications and monitoring activities. The development of an automated and more technologically advanced offender population forecasting system was tasked to the Research branch.

Part I of R-59 report provides a historical background of CSC forecasting procedures. While new information technology has provided many improvements, it has also disrupted the legacy of our forecasting system. Given that discontinuities were introduced into the historical population data sets used for forecasting, a major effort in the Offender Population Profiling and Simulation System (OPPSIM) project will be re-building the historical time-series.

Part II provides an overview and workplan for this new OPPSIM. Features will include a model for

forecasting offender profiles and federal admissions. These models will be introduced in phases, as sufficient offender profile and admission data become available.

Traditional time-series models (and data) from the offender population forecasting suite are reviewed in Part III. While OPPSIM will incorporate the main time-series models, these must first be adapted to Offender Management System (OMS) data, and re-engineered to take full advantage of more powerful forecasting technology now available.

Finally, Part IV offers provisional population forecasts for men, women, and Aboriginal offenders as well as the total community supervision populations. These provisional projections serve as a bridge until new forecasts become available. ■

A two-year release follow-up of federal offenders who participated in the Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program (R-60, 1998)

Roger Boe

In Canada today, released offenders may lack the basic literacy skills and education qualifications to be competitive in the labour market, while at the same time the demand for workers with lower qualifications is seriously deteriorating. Research clearly indicates that without stable employment when released, offenders stand a much poorer chance of being successfully reintegrated.

The results of this study ($n = 6074$) indicate that the ABE-8 program provides a modest but significant reintegration benefit for federal offenders who complete the program, as well as a literacy improvement of almost 3 school grades.

In brief, the three areas measured by this study (positive inmate attitudes and experiences with the ABE program, literacy-gain and release outcome) all support a similar conclusion — ABE participation provides significant benefits for offenders and contributes to their safe reintegration to the community.

1. A majority of inmates surveyed report positive experiences with the ABE program and nearly

80% rated it Good or Excellent. Comparatively, the ABE program was rated above average among Correctional Service of Canada's core programs.

2. Literacy gains are also significant. The findings suggest that the ABE program is generally targeted at higher-need offenders. Inmates who completed their ABE-8 program gained, on average, nearly 3 grade levels. Similar patterns were indicated for the ABE-10 participants. In addition, there was a modest and statistically significant reduction (overall, about 5%) in release re-admissions associated with grade-level gains.
3. Finally, the follow-up indicates that ABE participants show measurable re-integration gains from participating educational programs. Overall, the study sample was a higher than average risk group, being somewhat younger, and more likely first time with a violent conviction. "For those who complete their program, improvements in their rate of re-admission ranges from 5-30%, which are modest but significant." ■

Aboriginal offender survey: Case files & interview sample (R-61, 1997)

Joseph C. Johnston

This research study ($n = 556$) was drawn from a nation-wide sample (approximately 50%) of Aboriginal offenders in federal custody for file review and face-to-face interviews. Criminal history data was also obtained from the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC). The samples represented all levels of security.

Aboriginal offenders' criminal histories were characterized by a prevalence of violent offences, most common of which was assault. Property crime such as break and enter and theft were the most numerous, and failure during community supervision was very evident.

From Aboriginal offenders' case files, information was collected regarding their childhood backgrounds. It was found that early drug (60.4%) and alcohol abuse (57.9%) were commonplace, as were behavioural problems (57.1%). Other frequently noted occurrences were physical abuse (45.2%) and sexual abuse (21.2%), as well as severe poverty (35.3%), and parental absence or neglect (41.1%). Suicide was attempted by 20.5 percent of these offenders.

In terms of a Risk/Needs analysis, this Aboriginal group studied tended to be a higher risk/higher needs population. Over 40 percent of those surveyed fell into the high risk/high needs cell, according to

their case files. The balance of the others tended to group around the high risk/medium needs or the medium risk/high needs cells.

In all, several themes presented themselves. First, it becomes clear that the incarcerated Aboriginal population constitutes a high needs group. A group that largely shares a common background of physical or sexual abuse, early drug and alcohol use, emotional problems, and poor parenting. This is also a relatively high-risk group, often with histories of failure during community supervision.

Another theme relates to Aboriginal offenders' cultural and spiritual life. Here, it was found that many enjoyed participating in native cultural activities, although most desired more to be available. The Aboriginal offender population also represented themselves as fairly spiritual and frequent participants in spiritual or ceremonial activities.

While difficult relations between inmates and institution staff may be common for any culture, the present study does not warrant the conclusion that relations are worse for Aboriginal offenders. (That would require a comparative study.) The offenders *did* frequently recommend more Aboriginal staff and program deliverers as a means to smooth relations and improve programs. ■

Day parole: Effects of Corrections and Conditional Release Act (1992) (R-62, 1998)

Brian A. Grant

This study was initiated to provide a description of how day parole use has changed since the introduction of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA) in November 1992. The CCRA introduced a number of changes to day parole including eliminating automatic review for day parole, changing the eligibility date, and stipulating that the day parole must be used as preparation for full parole or statutory release. The study includes information on all day parole releases from April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1996.

The results of the study show a dramatic decline in the use of day parole since the introduction of the CCRA. Specifically, while the offender population increased by 12%, day parole releases declined by 32% and the number of offenders released on day parole declined by 37%. A detailed analyses of the 'time of day parole release' suggest that the observed declines are the result of a decrease in the number of offenders released early in their sentence on day parole, that is, released before their parole eligibility date (one third of the sentence).

The study examines the impact of other types of release introduced by the CCRA to determine if they could account for the observed decline in day parole use.

The CCRA changed the eligibility date for day parole from one-sixth of the sentence to six months before parole eligibility. While previous research indicated that this change should only affect about 8% of the day parole cases, it appears to have had a greater effect than anticipated given the decline in the percentage of offenders granted day parole early in their sentence. It is possible that a combination of the elimination of automatic review and the change in the day parole eligibility date resulted in cases being prepared for day parole review at a later point in the sentence and therefore fewer early releases.

The author suggests that day parole is more efficient than incarceration when the risk to the community can be effectively managed. It provides an opportunity for an offender to adapt slowly to the changes, which have occurred in society, and provides an opportunity to prepare for release by continuing treatment, looking for and starting work, and finding accommodation. Successful completion of day parole is a good predictor of future release success, and yet day parole use has declined since the implementation of the CCRA. Efforts may be needed to encourage the use of this option to ensure the correctional system is functioning effectively. ■

Case management preparation for release and day parole outcome (R-63, 1998)

Brian A. Grant, and Marlo Gal

The report addresses the impact of the requirement in the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA), 1992, that day parole be used to prepare offenders for full parole and statutory release. This study also provides a description of the planning process used to prepare offenders for day parole and activities pursued during the day parole period, which facilitate safe reintegration. The report presents analyses of the relationship between the various aspects of institutional preparation and day parole outcomes. In addition, a two year follow up comparing full release outcome for offenders who did not complete their day parole to offenders who completed day parole is presented.

This study also examined what, if any impact limiting the purpose of day parole had for the current use of day parole. The introduction of the CCRA limited the scope of the purpose of day parole by requiring it to be preparation for full parole or statutory release. However, this appeared to be the purpose of day parole even before the CCRA. Examination of activities pursued on day parole pre-CCRA and post-CCRA reveals that there is a great deal of similarity in terms of preparation for full release.

Results of the two-year outcome indicated that the factors associated with outcome on day parole were

also influential in the two-year follow up period. Offenders with no previous offences were less likely to be readmitted and when readmitted, were readmitted for technical violations.

The report suggests day parole is an effective program for assisting offenders in their reintegration into society. In part, this is due to the recommended activities (community programs/work) that the offenders participate in while on day parole. These activities in conjunction with community supervision facilitate re-adjustment to community life and subsequently a successful reintegration into society. Support for this comes from the fact that offenders who participated in recommended activities were not only more successful on day parole but more successful on subsequent releases as well.

Research has demonstrated that offenders who successfully completed day parole had more positive outcome on subsequent releases. Their finding was replicated in this study. Together, these results suggest that day parole is an effective way to manage low-risk offenders in the community early in their sentence and high-risk offenders later in their sentence without posing a threat to the community. ■

Work Release Program: How it is used and for what purposes (R-64, 1998)

Brian A. Grant, and Chris A. Beal

The report examines the use of work release in the Correctional Service of Canada as part of the five-year review of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA).

Work release provides opportunities for offenders to work away from the institution, but generally requires a return to custody or a halfway house each day. Work releases are granted by the Correctional Service of Canada and may be used for projects that directly meet the needs of the offender or for projects that provide services to the community. Unlike other jurisdictions, where work release is an early form of parole or statutory release, within the Correctional Service of Canada it may be granted at any time in the sentence and the offender generally returns to full custody when the work period is completed.

Work release appears to be associated with an increased chance of being granted day parole. While 24% of the work release population who applied for

a day parole *prior* to their first work release were granted a day parole, 73% of those who applied for day parole *after* their work release were granted day parole. Slightly more than half of the work release offenders were released on their statutory release date with the balance receiving full parole. After their full release (full parole or statutory release), 35% of offenders granted a work release were readmitted and one-fifth were readmitted for a new offence. The recidivism rates for work release cases were slightly higher than for offenders released on day parole.

Work releases provide an opportunity for offenders to be engaged in productive activities outside the prison. The results suggest that work release meets the general goals of the CCRA, including providing preparation to offenders for their eventual release. In addition, experience on a work release is associated with increased likelihood of a day parole release. ■

Personal development temporary absences (R-65, 1998)

Brian A. Grant, and Sara L. Johnson

Temporary absences (TAs) for personal development were first mandated in the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (1992) in an attempt to clarify the purposes for which TAs could be granted and to ensure consistency in their use across the country. These temporary absences (TAs) could be for up to 15 or 60 days and the 15-day absences could be with or without an escort. Personal development TAs was found to be used for the purpose indicated in the CCRA with alcohol and drug abuse treatment being the most common program specified.

Personal development TAs, unlike other types of TAs which last between one and three days, are granted for extended periods of time, either 15 or 60 days.

However, most of the personal development TAs are actually taken one day at a time or several days at a time over an extended period. Many of the personal development TAs are taken a few days at a time, but on multiple occasions, while some are taken for extended continuous periods.

Overall, personal development TAs offer many opportunities for offenders to be released into the community in order to attend programming not available in the institutions. Personal development TAs, therefore, can provide additional help with the process of reintegrating offenders into the community that they will eventually be released to. ■

The Temporary Absence Program: A descriptive analysis (R-66, 1998)

Brian A. Grant, and William A. Millson

The study was initiated by the Correctional Service of Canada and the National Parole Board to examine the trends in the use of the temporary absences. This report was also prepared for the five-year review of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA).

A large number of temporary absences are granted for medical treatment and other administrative functions. Therefore, for the purposes of this study, temporary absences (TA) were divided into three groups. The first of these is labelled Non-rehabilitative temporary absences. These TAs serve more operational needs rather than being designed to assist the offender with community reintegration. There are three purposes for which these TAs are granted: medical, administrative and compassionate. While

compassionate TAs are granted to assist the offender maintain family contact, it is not expected that these types of TAs will have an important impact on the offender's likelihood to re-offend.

The second and third groups of TAs are defined by the presence or absence of an escort, and include all TAs granted for family contact, community service or personal development. For the purposes of this report, these TAs are described broadly as reintegration TAs.

Prior to presenting the results of the study on each type of TA, the report presents the methodology for the study, and provides more details on the types and purposes of TAs. ■

Security classification using the Custody Rating Scale (R-67, 1998)

Brian A. Grant, and Fred Luciani

The purpose of this study is to address four main issues:

1. Is the security classification provided by the Custody Rating Scale (CRS) associated with offenders' institutional and release behaviour?
2. What percentage of inmates has a Custody Rating Scale completed and available for reference in the Offender Management System (OMS), and is the percentage increasing?
3. How consistently does the inmate security level match the institutional security level?
4. Are there differences in inmate security classification levels across regions, ethnic groups and gender?

The results presented in the report provide support for the use of Custody Rating Scale as a means of classifying offenders by security level. The data showed that there was a clear relationship between institutional and release performance and the rating received from the CRS. Comparisons between 1995 and 1997 showed increased use of the CRS and a

trend towards fewer overrides, although this was not consistent for all regions.

The CRS provides an objective and valid method of assessing the security classification needs of federal offenders. The available evidence indicates a strong relationship between CRS ratings and a number of indices of adjustment and risk and that it can play a useful role in the management of offenders and in meeting the objectives set out in the CCRA. The CRS has specific implications for promoting the placement of offenders to the least restrictive form of incarceration while ensuring consistent, accurate placement of offenders that does not compromise the safety of the public.

The CRS provides information for the initial placement decision. Work is continuing on the development of a classification tool that will provide for systematic re-evaluation of the security level requirements of offenders. This tool will take account of the offenders' participation in treatment and work programs, general institutional behaviour and other factors that are related to positive correctional results. ■

Accelerated parole review: Were the objectives met? (R-68, 1998)

Brian A. Grant

As part of the five year review of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA), a study was conducted to determine if the Accelerated Parole Review (APR) provisions of the Act were effective in selecting low risk non-violent offenders for release on parole and to determine the impact of the change on the National Parole Board (NPB) and the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC).

The study used information for all offenders released from January 1, 1990 to March 31, 1996. Offenders were divided first into pre- and post-CCRA groups based on the date of their parole hearing, and then they were divided into four groups based on their eligibility and ineligibility for APR.

- *APR eligible*
- *APR ineligible-offence*; first time federal admission but non-eligible offence
- *APR ineligible-admission*; multiple federal admissions but APR eligible offence
- *APR ineligible-both*; multiple federal admissions and non-eligible offence.

The study was designed to provide answers to seven questions related to APR:

1. *Are APR cases properly identified and referred as per the CCRA?*
2. *Are those who are eligible for APR being released at their parole eligibility date?*
3. *Has APR reduced the length of incarceration for non-violent first time federal offenders?*

4. *At what rate do those released following accelerated parole review recidivate as compared with other offenders?*
5. *Are the more focused criteria for APR (parole directed if there is no evidence for violent offending) resulting in the release of offenders who may have a high risk of reoffending, but a low risk of reoffending violently?*
6. *Has APR resulted in a decrease in the use of institutional program resources by low risk non-violent offenders?*
7. *Has APR changed the workload of CSC and the Board in reviewing low risk cases?*

The study also investigated the criteria used to select offenders for APR. Selecting offenders on the basis of first federal sentence appears to result in the selection of offenders less likely to have committed previous violent offences and less likely to commit new offences after release. In addition, the criteria of a non-violent admitting offence also resulted in the selection of offenders less likely to be readmitted, and to commit a new violent offence.

Comparisons between offenders directed for parole release and not directed for parole release indicate offenders not directed for parole release were more likely to be readmitted, to commit a new offence and to commit a new violent offence after their release than offenders directed for parole release. These results indicate that the NPB is making appropriate decisions in not directing parole release. ■

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Prison Work Program (CORCAN) participation: Post-release employment and recidivism (R-69, 1998)

Christa A. Gillis, Larry L. Motiuk, and Ray Belcourt

This study was conducted to investigate the impact of CORCAN on offender employability in the community and effect upon recidivism.

The results, consistent with the risk prediction literature, display an interaction between risk and identified needs and employment status in the first six months of release. Furthermore, the study illustrates the relationship between obtaining employment and subsequent recidivism; offenders who were employed in the first six months of release evidenced fewer convictions than offenders who were unemployed did. Moreover, analysis of the relationship between type of release and recidivism indicated significant differences in the percentage of new violent convictions for offenders who received statutory release, compared with offenders released on day and full parole.

Implications for safe reintegration into the community and future research within CORCAN are discussed.

More than half of the offenders in the sample studied, exhibited employment needs on release and furthermore, two thirds experienced difficulty obtaining employment in the first six months of release. These findings are consistent with previous research that has examined the post-release employment experience of offenders. Furthermore, offenders identified with employment needs at release are more likely to experience employment difficulties than offenders without these needs are. These findings suggest that the Community Risk/Needs Management Scale (CRNMS) is properly identifying individuals with employment needs. Consequently, enhanced resources should be directed toward overseeing the employment status of offenders with employment needs, given the interaction with recidivism. The CNRMS provides valuable information regarding offender's employment status and provides for assessment of change in employment status and needs over time. ■

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Managing older offenders: Where do we stand? (R-70, 1998)

Julius H. E. Uzoaba

The main purpose of this study is to provide a comprehensive profile of the older offenders in federal institutions and community settings. This report highlights the problems and unique needs of these offenders that set them apart from their younger adult counterparts. First, the terms used in the study were defined as well as the age of the offenders. Data were collected on the population of older offenders (50 years and older) in relation to four major offences (homicide, robbery, sexual and drug) and on the population of offenders in federal institutions.

Part I of the report examines the rapid growth of older offenders in the institutions through comparisons of their populations in 1993 and 1996. The data indicate that the majority of older offenders are more likely serving time for a crime of sexual nature or violence than their younger counterparts. The personal characteristics of older and younger adult offenders were compared as they pertain to conventional behaviour in seven need areas (employment, marital and family factors, associates and social interaction, substance abuse, community functioning, personal and emotional orientation, and attitude) and four areas of risk management (criminal history, offence

severity, sexual offence history, and suicide risk potentials).

Part II of the report analyses the offender needs, risk, and the combined risk and needs of older and younger offenders in the community settings. The study includes the following main offender need areas: academic and vocational training, employment, financial management, marital and family relationships, companionships of others, living accommodation, emotional stability, alcohol and drug usage, mental ability, health, degree of responsiveness, and the needs of aboriginal people.

Part III of the study deals with the detailed discussion of the critical needs of older offenders: medical care services, adjustment to imprisonment, programming, prison environment and violence, peer relationships, family relationships, and parole concerns.

The result of this study indicates that the population of older offenders is growing at a much faster rate than that of younger offenders. This situation merits attention, thought, planning, and action. As society on the whole is growing old, Correctional Service should be prepared to deal with the 'greying of Canada' in our prisons. ■

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: Implications for Correctional Service (R-71, 1998)

Fred J. Boland, Rebecca Burrill, Michelle Duwyn, and Jennifer Karp

The study suggests that there is a considerable link between FAS/FAE, (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effect) attention deficit disorder with or without hyperactivity, conducts disorder and delinquency and crime. The predictors that appear to be common to both individuals with FAS/FAE and individuals who become delinquent are hyperactivity, impulsivity, attention deficit disorder, low intelligence, poor school achievement, antisocial behavior and poor parental child-rearing. The report examines FAS from the pre-postnatal stage through adolescent development.

The present estimate of the world incidence of FAS is 1.9 cases per 1000, and there is currently no national data for Canadian estimates of FAS or FAE. However, it appears that among certain Aboriginal groups in Canada, the incidence of FAS/FAE is much higher.

The authors state we are only now learning about adults with FAS/FAE and know little about how to treat their multiple problems and nothing about their response to treatment efforts. We do know that many will come into contact with the criminal justice system and CSC in particular. A primary requirement

is to identify these individuals in order that researchers can identify their treatment need and design, offer and evaluate correctional programs that will consider the particular cognitive and behavioral deficits of these individuals.

The study presents a number of recommendations that are based on a review of the literature on FAS/FAE and how this information might be applied to assessment and programming strategies used by Correctional Service Canada.

FAS/FAE is surely an area where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Given the prevalence statistics outlined in this paper, especially with Aboriginal populations, we have a long way to

go in our prevention efforts. It is also clear than when prevention fails, early intervention is called for. Again, considering the course and consequences of FAS/FAE, including its impact on the criminal justice system, much more needs to be invested in this area. Like health, educational and social services, correctional services have a responsibility to do what they can to ensure that individuals with FAS/FAE who come in contact with their institutions receive the help they require to maximize their chances of living a stable, crime free community life. This will require considerable resources in terms of research and programming in order to accomplish this worthwhile goal. ■

Assessing treatment change among family violent offenders: Reliability and validity of a family violence treatment assessment battery (R-72, 1998)

Kelley Blanchette, David Robinson, Christine Alksnis, and Ralph Serin

This report investigates the utility of three self-report scales for measuring treatment-related changes in men who have participated in programs for family violent offenders. Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) implemented six Family Violence Treatment Demonstration Projects between 1990 and 1993 in both institutional and community settings. The treatment programs reflected both cognitive-behavioural and feminist models of family violence treatment. Within this broad framework, each demonstration site adopted its own specific approach to treatment. Nevertheless, the overriding aim of all six programs was to reduce or eliminate abuse of family members in all its forms. This validation study is based on data pooled from these projects between April 1, 1994 and March 31, 1995.

The three principle instruments were administered as self-report questionnaires. The instruments measured attitudes and behaviours related to woman abuse and various dimensions of anger arousal and expression. The fourth instrument (Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responding (BIDR)) measured the tendency to present oneself in a socially desirable manner while responding to questionnaire items.

1. *Inventory of Beliefs About Wife Beating (IBWB)*
2. *Index of Controlling Behaviour*
3. *Multi-Dimensional Anger Inventory (MAI)*
4. *Balanced Inventory of Desirable Responding*
 - Self-Deceptive Enhancement
 - Impression Management

The sample was comprised of 336 men. Half participated in institutionally based programs while the other half-participated in community-based programming.

While the pre-test/post-test data reported in this study provide only minimal evidence of program effectiveness, the results suggest that offenders who participate in family violence programming develop attitudes, over the course of treatment, which are less supportive of abuse. An important remaining question concerns the extent to which diminished endorsement of attitudes condoning family violence predicts reductions in actual abuse behaviour. ■

Results of a pilot study of the peer support program for women offenders (R-73, 1998)

Kelley Blanchette, and Gordana Eljdupovic-Guzina

This report provides a summary of findings from the pilot study of the Peer Support Team (PST) program at Edmonton Institution for Women (EIFW). While the results of the investigation suggest some minor modifications to the evaluation framework itself, these will not be addressed in detail. Rather, this report will provide an overview and preliminary evaluation of the PST program at Edmonton Institution for Women.

The remainder of this paper is organized into three major parts: method, results, and conclusions. The method section provides an overview of the instruments and procedures used, as well as a description of the sample achieved for the evaluation pilot study. The result section describes findings obtained through both quantitative and qualitative data analyses. Finally, the conclusions outline some of the study limitations and offer recommendations for potential improvement of the PST program at EIFW and integration at other facilities.

Overall, staff and offenders in terms of both process and outcome rated the PST very positively. The

program's activities are linked to its goals in a valid and logical way, and it appears to have its own place and function at EIFW. Importantly, the program meets key principles in the women's mental health continuum of care, particularly: access, woman-centredness, and client participation.

Evaluation results suggest that the program generally serve the targeted clientele. Recipients of peer support cited a variety of reasons for using the service, and generally reported satisfaction with the support received.

Some interviewees stressed that the PST does not help with crisis intervention, nor is it intended for that purpose. However, there is good evidence that peer support may help in crisis mitigation and in crisis resolution. While some maintain that the PST has facilitated positive atmosphere change at EIFW, the observed changes appear to be restricted to particular inter-individual relationships. ■

Coming up in *FORUM on Corrections Research*

The September 2001 issue of *FORUM* will focus on Alcohol and Drugs.

Results of the legal services client satisfaction survey March 1997–March 1998 (R-74, 1998)

Roberta L. Sinclair, Colleen A. Dell, and Roger Boe

The purpose of this survey is to measure the Legal Services Unit's (LSU) maintenance of its service standards as well as provide a forum for suggestions to improve service delivery. The survey covers a wide range of issues: use of legal services, communication, timeliness, usefulness of LSU counsel and advice, quality of service, and overall courtesy of service at LSU.

The survey was constructed on a six-point scale with space for explanations and examples following six of the seven sections (communication, timeliness, usefulness of LSU counsel and advice, quality of service, and overall courtesy of service at LSU). Additional space was provided for respondent suggestions and/or comments.

Between March 2 and March 30, 1998, a mail-out survey of the clients of the LSU was conducted. The survey sample size is 238. The total number of returned surveys was 172, denoting a response rate

of 72%. Twenty-two individuals (16% of respondents who used LSU services in the past year) provided a written response to the final comment and suggestion section of the survey. The following is a qualitative analysis of their responses.

Recognition of the good or excellent quality of service that LSU staff provides was referred to 27 times in the 22 written comments. This finding concurs with the overall positive response and satisfaction with LSU services by its clients. Many took advantage of the provided space to praise the work of LSU.

Further, LSU's helpfulness and willingness to provide assistance and promptness of technical and legal advice was praised by 64% of respondents. An additional 23% indicated the ability of LSU to provide legal services. The courteousness of LSU was recognized by 27% of respondents. ■

Case needs review: Substance abuse domain (R-75, 1998)

Fred J. Boland, Katherine Henderson, and Jan Baker

This report highlights key findings from an extensive review that examined the prevalence of substance abuse among offender populations as well as the various measures that have evolved for substance abuse assessment in offender and non-offender populations. The research indicates that about two thirds of offenders experience substance abuse problems to some degree. This high prevalence, along with data from large surveys and police reports indicates a strong association between substance abuse and crime. Accurate assessment that leads to appropriate treatment is therefore paramount if offenders are to be safely reintegrated into the community.

The authors identify several measures for assessing the severity of substance abuse problems that show

strong reliability and validity. Their review showed that the reliability, validity and other qualities of the Alcohol Dependence Scale (ADS) and the Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST), currently used by the Correctional Service of Canada as part of the Computerized Lifestyle Assessment Instrument (CLAI) are as good as or better than any comparable instrument available.

The authors also present an overview of the many assessment measures currently being used in the corrections environment, as well as recommendations for enhancing the substance abuse domain of the Case Needs Identification Analysis (CNIA) instrument used by the Service as one of the main components of the Offender Intake Assessment (OAI) process. ■

A review of the literature on personal/emotional need factors (R-76, 1998)

David Robinson, Frank Porporino, and Chris Beal

The personal/emotional domain of the Correctional Service of Canada's risk/need assessment protocol represents a broad grouping of criminogenic needs that are considered to be predictive of criminal and recidivistic behaviour.

This report examines the available empirical literature that documents the link between personal and emotional need factors and criminal and recidivistic behaviour. In addition, this review provides relevant information for assessing whether or not regrouping may improve assessment within the personal and emotional domain. The authors provide some guidelines for grouping of existing items.

Included in the review is a descriptive examination of how offender populations differ from general populations on various personal/emotional need factors. The review also attempts to identify personal/emotional need factors which show promise for predictive purposes and those factors which appear to produce only weak predictive results.

The authors present empirical evidence to support the continued use or elimination of each of the principal components and subcomponents of the Case Need Identification and Analysis (CNIA) currently used by the Correctional Service of Canada as part of the Offender Intake Assessment (OIA) process. Where empirical evidence was limited, the authors used theoretical judgements to recommend how the constructs should be used in the future.

The authors contend that the empirical and theoretical literature supports the continued use of the cognition and behavioural principal components and the elimination of the self-concept, mental ability, and mental health and intervention principal components.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of their methodology and present recommendations that address personal and emotional need factors as dynamic predictors of recidivism. ■

Case needs review: Associates/social interaction domain (R-77, 1998)

Claire Goggin, Paul Gendreau, and Glenn Gray

Within the criminological literature there is widespread consensus that the extent to which an offender associates with anti-social peers is critically important to an understanding of the development of criminal behaviour and the prediction of recidivism.

In this investigation a narrative review and meta-analysis of the associates/social domain was conducted. The associates/social domain produced a correlation with recidivism of $r = .18$, replicating the results of a previous meta-analysis which indicated that this domain is one of the most robust predictors of recidivism. Of the three components of the associates/social domain (i.e. companions, neighbourhood, and criminal family), the most useful was the companions category. In addition, a literature search

uncovered other measures that assessed the associates/social construct. Specific recommendations were made as to how to improve the Case Needs Identification Analysis (CNIA) measure employed by the Correctional Service of Canada.

Overall, 35 studies were identified as suitable for meta-analysis which generated 75 effect sizes. For those variables where at least 50% of the studies reported information on sample and study characteristics, the results were as follows:

- 97% of effect sizes came from studies which assessed males only or mixed gender samples,
- 71% of effective sizes were associated with adult or mixed adult/juvenile samples,

- effect sizes were evenly distributed across the decades (1960-1990),
- 69% of effective sizes were associated with subjects of mixed risk levels,
- less than 5% of effect sizes were associated with offenders with a violent or sexual offence history,
- 93% of effect sizes came from studies with a minimum 2 year follow-up period,

- 86% of outcomes included conviction, incarceration, or a combination thereof, and
- the vast majority of effect sizes were associated with non-violent recidivism.

The results from this investigation again confirm that the criminal associates domain is one of the most powerful predictors of recidivism. ■

Male young offenders in Canada: Revised edition (R-78, 1998)

Roberta L. Sinclair, and Roger Boe

This report is a summary and presentation of recent trends involving male young offenders in Canada. It is an update to the original report, B-22, published in May, 1998. This version includes 1997 Uniform Crime Report data.

The three data sources used in compiling this report are the *Uniform Crime Report Survey*, the *Youth Court Survey*, and the *Corrections Key Indicator Report*, all published by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Where available, the analysis in this report examine male young offender trends over the past six years. The analyses are directed toward seven questions:

1. Has there been an increase in male youth charged by police, 1992-1997?

At the national level there has been a consistent decrease. By offence category, there was a slight increase in violent crimes until 1995, when a decrease trend began ending with the 1997 rate equal to the 1992 rate.

2. Has there been an increase in male youth processed through the youth court system, 1991/92-1996/97?

At the national level, no

3. Are male youth getting involved with crime at a younger age?

At the national level, male youth are not getting involved with crime at a younger age. A mean age of 15.5 has remained consistent from 1992/93 to 1995/96, increasing slightly in 1996/97 to 16.

4. Are male youth getting more violent?

The national rate of violent crime by male youth peaked in 1995 and decreased in subsequent years.

5. Has there been an increase in the frequency of male youth remanded into custody pending disposition of a charge?

Due to data from only Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and British Columbia, conclusions are tentative.

Prince Edward Island increased from 1992/93 to 1996/97.

Overall stability in Manitoba from 1992/93 was followed by an increase to the highest rate per 10,000 male youth in 1996/97.

British Columbia increased only slightly.

6. Are male youth getting more serious dispositions?

There has been a consistent increase in secure custody dispositions.

7. Has there been an increase in the number of male youth transferred to adult court?

There has been an increase from 1991/92 to 1996/97.

This report presents data on the national and regional levels separately and provides comparisons between regions. ■

Adult male offenders in Canada: Recent trends (R-79, 1998)

Colleen A. Dell, Roberta L. Sinclair, and Roger Boe

The focus of this report is a summary and presentation of recent trends involving adult male offenders in Canada and is an integral part of similar studies addressing crime trends. To allow for comparison, it adheres to the same format of Research Brief B-18, *Female young offenders in Canada: Recent trends*; Research Brief B-21, *Adult female offenders in Canada: Recent trends*, and Research Brief B-22, *Male young offenders in Canada: Recent trends*. This report completes the series.

The data used to compile this report is derived from two sources: the *Uniform Crime Report Survey* and the *Adult Criminal Court Survey*, both published by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. The analyses in this report examine adult male offender trends over the past 5 years and were directed toward five questions:

1. Has there been an increase in adult males charged by the police, 1992-1997?

At the national level, no. By offence category, there was a substantial decrease in property crimes, there was also a decrease in violent crimes and drug offences.

2. Has there been an increase in adult males processed through the court system, 1994/95-1996/97?

At the national level, there was a decrease. By offence category, there was a decrease in violent crimes, property crimes, and other crimes. Drug crimes remained relatively stable.

3. Are adult males getting involved with crime at a younger age?

At the national level, no.

4. Are adult males getting more violent?

The national rate of violent crime among adult males has declined from 107 to 88 per 10,000 adult male population.

5. Are adult males getting more serious dispositions?

At the national level, dispositions remained relatively stable from 1994/95 to 1996/97.

To contextualize the *Uniform Crime Report* findings in this report, the rate of adult males and females, and youth males and females charged by police declined from 1991 to 1996. ■

Female young offenders in Canada: Revised edition (R-80, 1998)

Colleen A. Dell, and Roger Boe

The focus of this report is a summary and presentation of recent trends involving female young offenders in Canada. It is a revision of the original report, B-18, published in September 1997.

The data used to compile this report is derived from three sources: the *Uniform Crime Report Survey*, the *Youth Court Survey* and the *Corrections Key Indicator Report*, all published by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Where available, the analyses in this report examine female young offender trends over the past 6 years. The analyses were directed toward seven questions:

1. Has there been an increase in female youth charged by the police, 1992-1997?

At the national level, no. (By offence category, there was a marked decrease in property crimes, an increase in violent and other crimes and a slight increase in drug offences).

2. Has there been an increase in female youth processed through the youth court system, 1991/92-1996/97?

At the national level, overall there has been a slight decrease. By offence category, there has

been a significant decrease in property crimes, a notable increase in violent and Young Offender Act offences, a slight increase in drug offences and relative stability in the category of other crime.

3. Are female youth getting involved with crime at a younger age?

At the national level, no.

4. Are female youth getting more violent?

Since 1992, the national rate of violent crime among female youth has increased from 38 per 10,000 to 47 per 10,000.

5. Has there been an increase in the frequency of female youth remanded into custody pending disposition of a charge?

Conclusions were tentative because only two provinces are reported.

6. Are female youth getting more serious dispositions?

At the national level, there was an increase in probation, open custody and secure custody. Fine and community service order and absolute discharge both decreased.

7. Has there been an increase in the number of female youth transferred to adult court?

Very few females [a total of 20 female youth cases] were transferred to adult court between 1991/92 and 1996/97. ■

An investigation into the characteristics of substance abusing women offenders: Risk, need and post release outcome (R-81, 1999)

Craig Dowden, and Kelley Blanchette

This investigation compared women offenders who were substance abusers to those who were not. The groups were compared on a number of criteria: risk and need variables, demographic characteristics, and recidivism data. To obtain the required information for the present study, the Correctional Service of Canada's automated database, the Offender Management System (OMS) was accessed in conjunction with the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) records. The final sample comprised 251 women offenders for whom institutional program participation information was available. The first set of comparisons focused on demographic information (age, race). It was found that the mean age for the substance abuser was 32.7 years compared to 34.9 years for the non-abusers.

An extremely high proportion (93%) of Aboriginal women was classified as substance abusers, compared to 49% of non-Aboriginal women. The majority of substance abusers were classified as medium (46%) and high-risk (26%) offenders whereas only 28% were low-risk. Comparisons were also performed on the global need rating assigned (at intake) to both groups of women offenders. Statistically reliable differences were found in five of the seven overall target domains.

The final set of comparisons examined the recidivism rates of the study sample. There was a trend for substance abusers to recidivate at a higher rate than non-abusers; however, this was not statistically significant.

Results of this study have raised some important concerns regarding the continuum of offender care, from assessment to programming. This research has identified important differences between substance abusing and non-abusing women offenders, reflecting the validity of the Offender Intake Assessment (OIA) strategy. The high proportion of women substance abusers in this study demonstrates the importance of examining this area more extensively in the future.

The study highlights the area of correctional treatment planning as one that merits some attention with improvements likely to enhance the assessment and treatment of women offenders. The results clearly demonstrate that treated substance abusers were less likely to return to custody than their untreated counterparts.

The overall result of the present study reveal clear and reliable differences between substance abusers and non-abusers in a variety of areas assessed at intake. ■

Anger management programming for federal male inmates: An effective intervention (R-82, 1999)

Craig Dowden, Kelley Blanchette, and Ralph Serin

This investigation compared a matched sample of 110 male federal offenders who completed the institutional Anger Management program to an untreated comparison group. The majority (86%) of whom was matched to the treatment group on age, Statistical Information on Recidivism (SIR) risk group and major admitting offence. Where it was not possible to match on all three criteria (14%), offenders were matched on age and SIR risk group. In comparing groups on post-release outcome criteria (non-violent and violent recidivism), survival analysis was used to equate groups for time-at-risk in the community.

The first set of comparisons compared "treated" to "comparison" subjects on non-violent recidivism (defined as any new conviction for a non-violent offence). Both groups of inmates were divided into higher-risk versus lower-risk groups based on SIR risk group ratings. Results revealed that for the lower-risk cases (n = 54), completion of the Anger Management program was not significantly associated with reduced levels of non-violent re-offending. However, when analyses focused on higher-risk cases (n = 56), significant reductions in non-violent recidivism were found. This translated into a 69% reduction in non-violent recidivism (i.e. 39.3% recidivism rate for the comparison group versus 12.5% of the Anger Management group).

These groups were also compared on violent recidivism. For the higher-risk group, completion

of the Anger Management program was associated with significant reductions in violent reoffending. There was an 86% reduction in violent recidivism (25% for the control group versus 3.6% for the Anger Management group).

Another interesting finding was that some of the pre-post change scores on assessment measures were significantly correlated with reductions in both non-violent and violent recidivism.

Results of this investigation provide preliminary support for the effectiveness of Anger Management programming, especially for high-risk cases. Operational implications include ensuring comprehensive pre-treatment screening assessments where high-risk cases are assigned to Anger Management treatment and low-risk cases are diverted into lower intensity programs.

The high proportion of Aboriginal offenders in the treatment group highlights the necessity of evaluating the effectiveness of this program for this particular offender population.

This study has raised some important points for practitioners and researchers alike. First and foremost, the present investigation has illustrated that Anger Management programming is indeed an effective intervention strategy, especially for high-risk offenders. ■

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Day parole outcome, criminal history and other predictors of successful sentence completion (R-83, 1999)

Brian A. Grant, and Christa A. Gillis

This study was conducted to determine the factors associated with successful sentence completion for offenders who had received day parole and is a follow-up to the report, *Day parole program review: Case Management predictors of outcome* (Grant et al. 1996). The results of this study indicate that successful completion of day parole is associated with lower readmission and new offence rate, and demonstrated that day parole serves the needs of low risk offenders released early in their sentence. Additionally, day parole responds to the needs of higher risk offenders released shortly before their statutory release date, and contributes to community protection.

The research also indicated that offenders released on day parole are more likely than the general offender population to be granted full parole. In addition, their success rate on full parole and statutory release is higher compared to the general offender population.

The study also looked at risk/needs, motivation, dynamic risk predictors and previous criminal history as factors influencing both day parole and full release outcome. Results confirmed the relationship between release outcome and risk and need, with higher risk and needs associated with higher levels of failure. The research also suggests

that in the case of offenders eligible for day parole, needs may be a more important predictor of outcome than risk.

Motivation was shown to be a useful predictor of day parole and full release outcome, with the motivated offender more likely to succeed than non-motivated offenders (21% failure rate compared to 30%, respectively). Dynamic risk predictors such as change in motivation and change in institutional security were also shown to be useful predictors of outcome, although security level at time of release was as good a predictor of full release outcome as change in security level.

Previous criminal history, consisting of federal and provincial offences, was related to both day parole and full release outcome. Offenders with less than four convictions had very high success rates on both day parole (85%) and full release (77%). However, offenders with more than 10 previous convictions had much lower success rates on day parole (68%) and full release (less than 50%).

The study demonstrates that day parole is an important predictor of full release outcome. It provides a form of early release for low risk offenders and is a method of preparing and assessing higher risk offenders for full release. ■

Review of issues associated with serious spouse abuse among federally sentenced male offenders (R-84, 1999)

Sara L. Johnson, and Brian A. Grant

This report explored the severity of the problem of spouse abuse among federally sentenced offenders, and examined the strategies utilized by the Correctional Service of Canada in response to spouse abuse and suggested some areas that require future research.

According to a national Canadian survey, 15% of women currently with male partners reported violence by their current spouse while 48% of women with a previous marital partner reported violence by a previous spouse. Police data in Canada found that between 1974 and 1992, women killed by their spouses constituted 38% of all adult female homicide victims while 6% of adult male homicide victims were killed by their spouses.

The report presents relevant information profiling the demographic, psychological and attitudinal variables associated with spouse abusers. One consistent risk marker for spousal violence is witnessing or being a victim of physical abuse as a child. Empirical research has found a correlation between overall drinking behaviour or alcoholism and risk of spouse abuse offending although taking intoxicants prior to an abusive episode has not shown as clear a relationship.

Particularly relevant is the finding that severe abusers tend to be involved in a criminal lifestyle and often have their attitudes towards spouse abuse reinforced by friends.

Triggers or situational factors that appear to increase the likelihood of spouse abuse at a particular time include stress, emotional arousal, and specific incidents such as separation. These factors are likely to occur when offenders are released into the community since reintegration into the community is particularly stressful.

Spouse abusers and especially severe spouse abusers appear to have many characteristics in common with federally supervised offenders. Research strongly indicates 30% of offenders who had murdered their spouses had an arrest record for violent crime and 29% had an arrest record for non-violent crime.

The report recommends that future research should focus on refining the identification of spouse abusers, determining the level of spouse abuse among federally sentenced offenders especially within the community, and improving community supervision techniques for offenders identified as potential spouse abusers. ■

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The psychological effects of 60 days in administrative segregation (R-85, 2000)

Ivan Zinger, and Cherami Wichmann

This study examined the psychological effects of administrative segregation in federal corrections.

Participants in this longitudinal study included 60 inmates from Kingston, Collins Bay and Millhaven penitentiaries who had either been voluntarily or involuntarily placed in administrative segregation and remained in segregation for 60 days (quasi-experimental group) or randomly selected from the general inmate population and remained in the general inmate population for 60 days (comparison group).

Participants initially completed written psychological tests and took part in a structured interview that assessed their overall mental health and psychological functioning. The same procedure was undertaken 30 days later and then again 60 days later. The sample included inmates (some with existing psychiatric conditions and others who feared for their personal safety) who were voluntarily or

involuntarily placed for periods up to 60 days in administrative segregation pursuant to the current administrative segregation process.

This study relied on multiple assessments of mental health and psychological functioning of offenders (i.e., externalizing/aggression, internalizing/interpersonal distress, psychiatric symptomatology, and cognitive ability). This approach provided a more comprehensive assessment of potential psychological effects of administrative segregation, and is consistent with preferred contemporary psychological and psychiatric assessment practices (DSM-IV, 1994).

The result of the study suggests there was no evidence that over a period of 60 days the mental health and psychological functioning of segregated offenders significantly deteriorated. ■

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Results of an evaluation of the Peer Support Program at Grand Valley Institution for women (R-86, 2000)

Fariya Syed, and Kelley Blanchette

The Peer Support Program is a peer counselling service available to exclusively at federal women's institutions. The Peer Support Team (PST) is made up of offenders who are trained in peer counselling and crisis intervention counselling.

Treatment at the regional women's facilities is based on a program paradigm that emphasizes treatment that is "holistic, women-centered, culturally sensitive and support[s] the development of autonomy and self-esteem" (Correctional Service Canada, 1992).

This report presents results of an evaluation of the Peer Support Team program at Grand Valley Institution for women. Quantitative and qualitative research methods were used to assess various aspects of the program. Five broad evaluation issues were queried:

- **Is there a need for the program?**

Results revealed a clear need for the program.

- **Are there adequate resources and support for operation of the program?**

Evaluation results demonstrated generally satisfactory resources and support for the program.

- **Are the activities of the program organized in such a way that its goals can be achieved?**

The process of the PST is logically linked to its outcome/goals.

- **Is the program effective?**

Those who have received peer support indicate they were satisfied and PST met their needs. Results of interviews indicated that PST does play an effective role in crisis intervention.

- **Does the program create any positive or negative unintended effects?**

One potential unintended negative effect of the PST program is misuses of the program. (i.e. visit friends or to transport contraband). Another potential negative effect of the PST program is the creation of a hierarchy amongst the offender population.

Moreover, a number of very positive impacts were noted for those women emerged in the program, either as trainees or PST members. These included: education, increased empathy for others, conflict mediation skills, enhanced self-confidence and self-esteem, and general personal growth. ■

Results of an evaluation of the Peer Support Program at Nova Institution for women (R-87, 2000)

Kendra Delveaux, and Kelley Blanchette

The Peer Support Program is a peer counselling service available exclusively at federal women's institutions. The Peer Support Team (PST) is made up of offenders who are trained in peer counselling and crisis intervention counselling. Treatment at the regional women's facilities is based on a program paradigm that emphasizes treatment that is "holistic, women-centered, culturally sensitive and support[s] the development of autonomy and self-esteem" (Correctional Service Canada, 1992).

This report presents results of an evaluation of the Peer Support Team program at Nova Institution for women. Quantitative and qualitative research methods were used to assess various aspects of the program. Five broad evaluation issues were queried:

- **Is there a need for the program?**

Results revealed a clear need for the program.

- **Are there adequate resources and support for operation of the program?**

There were no monetary resources allocated to the PST at Nova at the time of the evaluation. In addition, difficulties were anticipated regarding the availability of staff to coordinate the PST in the future.

- **Are the activities of the program organized in such a way that its goals can be achieved?**

There was a general lack of awareness regarding the program.

- **Is the program effective?**

Most staff and offenders who participated in this study expressed positive views of the program, indicating that the program could potentially benefit both PST members and recipients of the service.

- **Does the program create any positive or negative unintended effects?**

The positive effects appear to exceed the negative effects.

The results suggest overall support for the program by the majority of staff and offenders. Although some difficulties were experienced due to lack of knowledge regarding the program and the relative lack of use of the Peer Support Services, these problems will likely be addressed as the program continues to develop. ■

Results of an evaluation of the Peer Support Program at Joliette Institution for women (R-88, 2000)

Fariya Syed, and Kelley Blanchette

The Peer Support Program is a peer counselling service available to offenders at federal women's institutions. The Peer Support Team (PST) is made up of offenders who are trained in peer counselling and crisis intervention counselling. Treatment at the regional women's facilities is based on a program paradigm that emphasizes treatment that is "holistic, women-centred, culturally sensitive and support[s] the development of autonomy and self-esteem" (Correctional Service Canada, 1992).

This report presents results of an evaluation of the Peer Support Team program at Joliette Institution for women. Quantitative and qualitative research methods were used to assess various aspects of the program. Five broad evaluation issues were queried:

- **Is there a need for the program?**

Results revealed a clear need for the program

- **Are these adequate resources and support for establishing the PST Program?**

The Coordinators indicated that they received sufficient acknowledgement and support from the institutional management for the program.

- **Implementation: Are activities of the program organized in a way that its goal can be achieved?**

Those who have received peer support indicate that they were satisfied and PST met their needs.

- **Is the program effective?**

It was found that the PST plays an effective role in individual crisis intervention and a somewhat effective role in institutional crisis intervention.

- **Does the program create any positive or negative unintended effects?**

The positive effects appear to exceed the negative effects.

The conclusions summarize findings, outlines some of the study's limitations and suggests recommendations for subsequent PST programs at Joliette. ■

Use of the residency condition with statutory release: A descriptive analysis (R-89, 2000)

Brian Grant, Sara Johnson, and Mike Muirhead

Recent amendments to the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA) (amendments to the CCRA, 1995) have allowed for the imposition of a residency condition to offenders' statutory release (SR) when they are considered to be high risk of committing a serious violent offence without such a condition.

This report provides a description of how the amendment to the CCRA that came into effect in January 1996 affected the use of residency condition. The study addresses the following questions:

1. Has the use of the residency condition for referred offenders changed following the amendment to the CCRA?
2. Has the residency condition been used with offenders released at their statutory release date?
3. What are the demographic characteristics of offenders released with a residency condition?
4. Is residency used equally across all regions?
5. What are the sentence characteristics of offenders released with a residency condition?
6. For offenders released with a residency condition, what type of offences have they committed in the past and what is the extent of their criminal activity? Have these characteristics changed from before the amendment to after?
7. What percentage of offenders released with a residency condition is readmitted to prison within one year of their release?

In order to be able to make comparisons between pre-amendment and post-amendment period, four groups were created:

- *pre-amendment referred*: All offenders referred for detention or who had their detention reviewed and were granted a release residency condition before January 31, 1996;
- *post-amendment referred*: All offenders referred for detention or who had their detention reviewed and were granted a release with a residency condition after January 31, 1996;
- *SR-residency*: All offenders released at their SR date after January 31, 1996 with a residency condition and who did not have a previous SR release which was followed by a readmission to prison;
- *SR suspended-residency*: All offenders who were released on SR after January 31, 1996 with a residency condition, but who had a previous SR for which they were suspended during the same sentence.

The results of the study indicate an overall readmission rate of 55% within one year for the study groups, higher than that observed among all SR releases (approximately 40%). The majority of these readmissions were due to a revocation, not a new offence. New offence rates ranged from 5% for the pre-amendment referred group to 17% for the SR suspended-residency group. The high readmission rate may indicate that residency had little impact on recidivism following release. However, the use of more appropriate control groups in a subsequent study will evaluate this finding more completely. ■

Case needs review: Employment domain (R-90, 2000)

Paul Gendreau, Claire Goggin, and Glenn Gray

The purpose of this study is to update the Gendreau et al., (1996) meta-analysis vis-à-vis the education/employment items of that study's social achievement domain and to review the psychological test literature for recent psychometric instruments that measure the employment construct.

A literature search for relevant studies published between January 1994 and December 1997 was conducted using the ancestry approach and library abstracting services. These studies were added to the existing database reported in the Gendreau et al. (1996) meta-analysis. As well, studies from two recent meta-analysis of the predictors of recidivism for mentally disordered and sexual offenders were added. For a study to be included, the following criteria applied:

- Data on the offender was collected prior to the recording of the criterion measure. A minimum follow-up period of six months was required. If a study reported more than one follow-up period, data from the longest interval was used;
- Recidivism had to be recorded when the offender was an adult (18 years or older);
- The criterion had to have a no-recidivism category. Studies that used "more" vs. "less"

crime categorizations were not used. The criterion measures were arrest, conviction, incarceration, or probation/parole violation; and

- Each study was also required to report statistical information that could be converted into a common metric or effect size (i.e., Pearson r).

Sixty-seven studies generated 200 effect sizes with recidivism. The employment domain produced a correlation with recidivism of $r = .13$. This modest result was in keeping with that of a previous meta-analysis wherein employment was subsumed within a social achievement domain ($r = .15$). An examination of the mean r values associated with the nine categories of the employment domain indicated that education/employment ($r = .26$), employment needs at discharge ($r = .15$), and employment history ($r = .14$) were among the most powerful predictor categories. Further, the literature search uncovered several measures that assessed the employment construct.

The authors also prescribe four recommendations regarding possible revisions that may improve the Case Needs Identification Analysis process employed by the Correctional Service of Canada. ■

Predicting suicide attempts among male offenders in federal penitentiaries (R-91, 2000)

Cherami Wichmann, Ralph Serin, and Larry Motiuk

Although there is a need for research on all forms of suicidal behaviour by offenders, only suicide attempts were addressed in this study. This focus was taken for two reasons. First, many more offenders attempt suicide each year than do actually succeed. Second, a large proportion of offenders who eventually commit suicide have made a prior attempt. As such, this study is based on two main goals. The first goal was to determine the importance of particular variables to offenders' risk of subsequent attempted suicide, and the second, was to determine if items from the Suicide Potential Scale could be used in a predictive manner.

As part of an overall correctional strategy, the Correctional Service of Canada incorporated a Suicide Potential Scale into the Offender Intake Assessment (OIA) process in the fall of 1994. This scale consists of nine indicators that are scored as being present or absent. These indicators, derived from clinical experience and the available literature on prison suicide, include: may be suicidal; previous suicide attempt; recent psychological and/or psychiatric intervention; recent loss of a relative/spouse; experiencing major problems; currently under the influence of alcohol/drugs; signs of depression; expressed suicidal ideation; and has a suicide plan. The suicide potential instrument was designed as a flagging strategy to assist correctional staff in their determination of the level of risk for suicide that an offender may present at intake.

The report is further structured on two phases. Phase 1 reflecting analyses of demographic and sentence-related information for any male offender for whom an incident report of attempted suicide had ever been filed on the Offender Management System ($n = 731$). This analysis clearly identified that some demographic factors distinguish among offenders according to their long-term suicide potential.

The second phase involved analyses of offenders who had full OIA information available (this process was not implemented until the end of 1994). As a result, significantly fewer offenders could be included in this second phase.

Consequently, analyses were conducted on 152 offenders: 76 offenders who attempted suicide and for whom full OIA information was available and for 76 offenders who had not attempted suicide who had been matched with the former group on age at admission, offence type, and sentence length. These analyses included various aspects of psychological functioning assessed at intake. Results suggest that offenders who attempt suicide have a wide range of interpersonal difficulties and few coping skills.

These findings also confirm the fact that the existing suicide assessment undertaken at intake is useful for short-term assessment and flagging offenders currently at risk for suicidal behaviours. However, long-term prediction of offenders who may be at risk for suicidal behaviour later in their sentence can also be facilitated by including three additional non-mental health items already assessed at intake:

1. Discipline problems;
2. Incidents related to contraband; and
3. Previous adult convictions.

The authors state their research supports the validity of the OIA process in the prediction of suicidal behaviour, however further replication is warranted. Moreover, the variables found to be important for differentiating offenders who attempted suicide from non-attempters, and for statistical prediction of suicide attempts, provided a definite starting point for the development of a second generation in suicide risk assessment. ■

A review of marital and family variable as they relate to adult criminal recidivism (R-92, 2000)

Elizabeth Oddone-Paolucci, Claudio Violato, and Mary Ann Schofield

Criminal behaviour is viewed as a complex phenomenon that results from a combination of biological, sociological, psychological, and situational antecedents. As a result, predicting criminality or even fully understanding its antecedents has been an enormous challenge for correctional workers, forensic scientists, and clinicians. There is growing evidence in support of the hypothesis that familial variables such as quality of parent-child relationships, familial criminality, parental illness and separation from parents, increase the likelihood of criminal behaviour. Consequently, this report reviews the relationship between marital and family variables and adult recidivism.

A thorough literature search was conducted using many different databases. Of the 238 identified studies, 193 were classified as empirical and 35 were classified as theoretical/narrative reviews. The majority of the studies were comprised of samples containing 100 or more recidivists. However, over half of the recidivism studies did not include a comparison group. Multivariate analyses were the highest level of statistical analysis used in 65 of the studies, while frequencies and structural equation modelling were the highest level of statistical analysis conducted in 25 studies.

Knowledge of the parent-child relationship has been useful in understanding the role that familial

variables play in predicting adult criminality. Research suggests that inappropriate discipline, poor parental supervision, attachment to parents, and runaway behaviour are predictive of adult criminal conduct. A recent meta-analysis also confirmed that family rearing practices (i.e. lack of supervision and affection, conflict, and abuse) were predictive of recidivism. Lastly, there is some evidence to suggest that early paternal influences are stronger than maternal influences in determining the presence or absence of violent criminality.

Various family factors (e.g. family psychopathology, quality of parent-child relationships, experiences of childhood victimization, marital status and the quality of the relationship) have been implicated as potential predictors of criminal recidivism among adults. Clearly, much remains to be learned about whether family life can alter a delinquent criminal career and can buffer against criminogenic influences in adulthood.

This report also provides recommendations for the enhancement of marital and family assessment strategies, as well as future investigations into recidivism among adult criminals. The report concludes with a description and critique of some of the instruments frequently relied upon for the measurement of adult criminal recidivism. ■

Federal imprisonment trends for women, for 1994-95 to 1998-99 (R-93, 2000)

Roger Boe, Cindy Lee Olah, and Colette Cousineau

Concern has been raised that, if the federal women's offender population continues to grow at recent rates, the Correctional Service of Canada may need to add significant accommodation capacity. However, the cause of this recent growth is not fully understood. This report examines two leading indicators of the criminal justice process that may indicate changing incarceration rates for adult women in Canada:

- trends in police reports of laying of charges against adult women, and
- the conviction and sentencing patterns of adult women appearing in adult criminal court.

The examination of police reports over the period from 1994 to 1999 found that fewer adult women are being charged. The total number of adult women charged each year decreased by about 6,300 between this period. Charges for major crimes such as homicide, attempted murder, robbery, and major assaults also decreased. However, charges for drug trafficking/importation have increased significantly.

Small, but significant increases were also recorded in charges for break and enter, and fraud and related offences for cases where there were multiple charges.

The reports from participating Provincial Adult Criminal Courts show about 9% fewer cases were dealt with in 1998-99 than in 1994-95. The number of adult women offenders convicted and sent to prison by the courts also decreased slightly. However, while overall prison sentences were down, sentences to federal terms (2 years or more) showed an increase.

The opening of new federal women institutions to serve the Atlantic and Prairie regions may have influenced the number of federal sentences in those specific regions. As new federal women institutions were opened in the Prairie and Atlantic regions (especially in Alberta, PEI, and Nova Scotia), the number of federal sentences has increased.

The report clearly outlines and identifies concerns regarding future accommodation capacity for federal women offenders. ■

Let's Talk

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An examination of offender risk and needs factors: Aboriginal and Caucasian women offenders (R-94, 2000)

Colleen Anne Dell, and Roger Boe

Research on Canadian offenders has invariably concluded that Aboriginal and Caucasian offenders have different criminogenic needs. Discussions have primarily centered on assumptions of racial heterogeneity: similarities between individuals are assumed to arise more from racial experience than from shared or common life histories.

This report presents a comparison of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) Offender Intake Assessment (OIA) risk and needs to determine the degree of difference in ratings between Aboriginal and Caucasian women offenders in federal custody. Needs ratings measure a variety of interpersonal and personal dynamics in an offender's life. They are used by CSC to indicate the extent of difficulties experienced by offenders, and provide insight into individual life histories, pre-incarceration lifestyles, and programming requirements. The risk rating is an assessment of future probability of re-offending if identified needs are not adequately addressed. Risk and need measurements are used to facilitate program referral as well as guide the case management process.

The findings of this research support that both similarities and differences exist in comparison of the OIA risk and needs ratings of Aboriginal and Caucasian women offenders. It suggests that this be acknowledged in the criminological research field. As well, it suggests that criminological research that forefronts offender race may also need to account for individual life histories, acknowledging potential similarities across racial groupings. Individuals differ due to their racialized experiences but they also resemble one another due to common life experiences. The overall implication is that caution must be exercised in focussing research exclusively on race.

However, it is equally important to acknowledge the similarity between offenders, as revealed in the analyses, and the potential implications for increased understanding in correctional practices. Continued research in this area, including a focus on men offenders, is encouraged by this research. ■

Note:

The reports are available in their entirety through the Correctional Service of Canada's Web site at <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca>

The utility of clinical and actuarial assessments for offenders in pre-release psychiatric decision-making (R-95, 2000)

Ralph Serin, Donna Mailloux, and Steve Hucker

The purpose of this research was to determine the outcome of the release decisions among violent offenders and compare the efficacy of clinical and actuarial assessments in predicting general and violent recidivism. This study may be considered to be unique in a number of ways. These are:

- the clinicians were forensic psychiatrists with extensive experience working with offenders;
- their contact with the offenders was for risk assessment;
- they performed comprehensive assessments involving detailed case file information, actuarial scales, and semi-structured interviews;
- the assessments were part of operational practice with none of the promises of confidentiality inherent in research, and;
- all of the offenders referred for assessment were deemed potentially dangerous because of a violent index offence.

During 1989 to 1990, pre-release psychiatric assessments were completed on 260 violent federal offenders, the majority of which were non-sexual. As of December 1997, this sample had been at risk for recidivism for up to seven or eight years. This study investigated three outcomes: (1) recidivism by type of outcome; (2) recidivism by type of release (parole versus statutory release; and (3) the unique and additive effects of clinical and actuarial risk assessment strategies in predicting recidivism. It was hypothesized that those released on parole would have lower recidivism rates and re-offend less

seriously than those on statutory release. Furthermore, actuarial instruments were hypothesized to surpass clinical judgements in their utility for the prediction of recidivism.

Recidivism was examined in several ways. First, a measure of "overall" recidivism reflected whether an offender re-offended at all. Second, a measure of "first violent" reflected whether the first re-offence was violent. Third, a measure of "ever violent" reflected whether an offender at any time during the 8-year follow-up, committed a new violent offence. Overall, 55% of the study sample recidivated of which 18% committed a "first violent" offence, such as assault, weapons, robbery and threats. The rate of violent recidivism doubled when violence was examined at any point within the follow-up period ("ever violent", 37%). Those who were on statutory release recidivated "overall" and "ever violently" more often than those released on parole. Moreover, survival analysis demonstrated that those on statutory release recidivated sooner than those on parole for measures of "overall", "first violent", and "ever violent" recidivism. The additive effects of clinical and actuarial measures were partially supported.

Although actuarial risk assessments continue to outperform clinical assessments alone, this study highlights the importance of merging the two practices to improve accuracy. The authors suggest that future research should address the impact of clinical judgements on the prediction of violence when compared to fully validated actuarial instruments. ■

