

Revalidation of the Custody Rating Scale for Indigenous Men Offenders

The Custody Rating Scale (CRS) continues to hold predictive validity for Indigenous men offenders at intake.

Why we did this study

The Custody Rating Scale (CRS) is an instrument employed by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) to assist in determining an offender's initial security classification. As per [Commissioner's Directive 705-7](#), the CRS is used in conjunction with structured professional assessment of an offender's institutional adjustment, escape risk, and public safety risk to determine an appropriate Offender Security Level (OSL). The CRS has previously been validated for Indigenous men offenders (e.g., Gobeil, 2011); however, periodic revalidation of the CRS remains necessary given the dynamic nature of the offender population.

What we did

The predictive validity of the CRS for Indigenous men offenders was assessed using a dataset of admissions to federal custody between 2013/2014 and 2018/2019. The dataset included Indigenous men offenders admitted to federal custody on a Warrant of Committal (WOC, i.e., a new sentence; $N = 5,967$) or following a revocation of conditional release ($N = 2,023$).

What we found

A higher CRS designation was associated with a greater likelihood of involvement in a negative institutional event (see Table 1). The association was stronger for new admissions relative to revocation admissions. A similar pattern was evident in the case of OSL. Area Under the Curve (AUC) values reached the threshold of 'good' predictive accuracy for the CRS in relation to involvement in an institutional incident, and 'acceptable' predictive accuracy in the case of an institutional charge. Predictive accuracy was similar for OSL relative to CRS. However, predictive accuracy was lower for the revocation group in the case of both the CRS and OSL (see Table 2).

What it means

The results of the present study reaffirm the predictive validity of the CRS for Indigenous men offenders at intake, as well as the efficacy of professional judgement, as evidenced by the similar predictive ability of the CRS and OSL. However, predictive accuracy was found to be weaker in the case of revocation admissions.

Table 1. Institutional Outcomes by CRS Designation for Indigenous Men Offenders Admitted on a WOC or Revocation, 2013/2014 to 2018/2019.

Outcome	CRS Level					
	WOC			Revocations		
	Min.	Med.	Max.	Min.	Med.	Max.
Incident ^a	39%	68%	93%	29%	43%	61%
Charge ^b	35%	66%	87%	24%	39%	49%

Table 2. Predictive Ability of CRS and OSL for Indigenous Men Offenders Admitted on a WOC or Revocation, 2013/2014 to 2018/2019.

Outcome	Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) Analyses			
	WOC		Revocations	
	AUC*	CI	AUC*	CI
CRS				
Incident ^a	.700	.688-.712	.583	.563-.602
Charge ^b	.683	.671-.695	.558	.537-.578
OSL				
Incident ^a	.682	.670-.693	.585	.567-.603
Charge ^b	.661	.650-.673	.547	.529-.566

^aRefers to involvement in at least one security or behavioural incident during the sentence for which the CRS was applied and following CRS administration.

^bRefers to an offender's receipt of any serious or minor disciplinary charge during the sentence for which the CRS was applied and following CRS administration. Only charges resulting in an outcome of 'guilty' were included.

*The Area Under the Curve (AUC) is used to examine the predictive accuracy of a measure in ROC analyses; a value of 0.5 represents chance prediction, while a value of 1.0 represents perfect prediction.

Note: CI=Confidence Interval

References:

Gobeil, R. (2011). *The Custody Rating Scale as applied to male offenders (Research Report R-256)*. Ottawa, ON: Correctional Service of Canada.

For more information: To obtain a PDF version of the full report, or for other inquiries, please e-mail the [Research Branch](#). You can also visit the [Research Publications](#) section for a full list of reports and one-page summaries.

Prepared by: The Special Projects and Data Management (SPDM) team.