

Use of SIUs

A transfer to an **SIU is always a last resort**, used only when all other reasonable alternatives are exhausted. Alternatives may include:

- mediation or conflict resolution
- involvement of ethnocultural supports such as an Elder or a Chaplain
- a transfer to a different unit or range within the institution
- transfer to another institution

Transfers to SIUs are only authorized and approved when one of the following legal criteria is met:

- allowing the offender to be in the mainstream offender population would jeopardize the safety of any person or the security of the penitentiary;
- allowing the offender to be in the mainstream offender population would jeopardize the offender's safety, and;
- allowing the offender to be in the mainstream offender population would interfere with an investigation.

On average, there are approximately **150** inmates in an SIU on any given day, which represents **1.2% of federal inmates in Canada**.



Interventions

Structured interventions and correctional programming are **tailored to address each SIU offender's specific risk factors and institutional behaviour**.

There has been a notable increase in the percentage of offenders **who successfully transferred** from SIUs to a mainstream offender population, from **56%** in 2020-2021 to more than **66%** as of March 2022.



Data collection

CSC recently updated the SIU-LTE desktop application to **improve tracking of day to day interventions in the SIU**. Upgrades to the SIU Mobile application are also underway. This has improved CSC's data collection and augmented our ability to monitor and report on results with more precision.



Health Care

Each individual is referred to health services for a health assessment, including mental health, within 24 hours of being transferred to an SIU.

Individuals in SIUs are **seen daily by a health care professional** to monitor their health care needs.

Individuals in SIUs are **offered health and mental health assessments** throughout their stay in the SIU.



Overrepresentation of Indigenous and Black offenders in SIUs

CSC is committed to the **successful reintegration of all offenders, including Indigenous and Black offenders**.

Indigenous offenders

- Before transfer of Indigenous offenders to SIUs, a **thorough review of an offender's Indigenous Social History (ISH)** is completed to ensure systemic and background factors are considered in the assessment and that all alternatives (culturally appropriate and/or restorative options) are exhausted before transfer to an SIU.
- **Cultural interventions** continue in the SIU.
- Stony Mountain Institution built a **sweat lodge and a dedicated cultural room** for Indigenous offenders in their SIU.
- **The Motivational Module Structured Intervention Unit Indigenous stream (MM-SIU-I) program** includes ceremonies and teachings, led by an Elder or Spiritual Advisor and the modules represent an aspect of the Medicine Wheel.

Black offenders

CSC continuously monitors offender representation within the SIUs and examining trends to identify the causes behind the overrepresentation. These findings reinforce that interventions offered to Black offenders should be **culturally adapted and focused on their respective areas of need** in order to address the issues leading to them being in the SIU. CSC is exploring intervention options for Black offenders in SIUs.



Women in SIUs

Women in SIUs have consistently been less than **0.6%** of the total mainstream offender population, which has consistently been **less than 4 across the country and 0 on most days**.

Indigenous offenders in SIUs receive **individualized and culturally appropriate interventions** through their interdisciplinary team, which includes Elders/Spiritual Advisors and Indigenous Liaison Officers.

SIUs

Oversight

SIUs are subject to **external oversight** by the **SIU Implementation Advisory Panel (IAP)** and **Independent External Decision Makers (IEDM)**.

CSC continues to review and respond to the ongoing feedback from partners and oversight bodies, including the IAP. CSC is committed to an **ongoing dialogue with the IAP**.

In recent months, **members of the IAP have visited** CSC institutions and SIUs, **meeting with staff and offenders**. Additional visits are planned.

As of May 31, 2022, there have been over **4,150 reviews** by an IEDM. IEDMs review offender cases on an **ongoing basis, in real-time**, and provide recommendations related to an offender's conditions and duration of confinement. **Their decisions are binding.**



Time out of cell and interaction time

All offenders in SIUs are **offered** the opportunity to spend a **minimum of four hours a day** out of their cell, and **two hours a day** for interaction with others.

Offenders receive **multiple** opportunities each day to leave their cells.

Offenders in SIUs **regularly** interact with:

- volunteers
- Elders
- spiritual advisors
- chaplains
- registered health care professionals
- correctional officers
- parole officers
- program officers
- other offenders

There are a **wide variety** of opportunities:

- meetings
- programming
- visits
- counselling
- activities/workshops
- art
- exercise
- access to video visitation and telephones

Many SIU sites benefit from significant involvement by **volunteers and community organizations**. They offer:

- programs
- workshops
- art
- social activities

Staff work closely with offenders who refuse to leave their cell or the SIU to determine cause, and to **develop a plan to support their return to** the mainstream offender population.



Success stories

- Canadian Families and Correction Network offers the **Dad Hero program at Atlantic SIU**.
- Offenders at **Millhaven SIU connect by phone** with students from the Queen's Correctional Services Volunteers while members from Loyalist College create and facilitate activities for "time out of cell."
- A **physical education course at Millhaven SIU** is leading offenders to revisit their education and several have completed their high school diplomas.
- There are **paint workshops for Indigenous offenders at Kent SIU**.