

CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.

Exploring the Shift in the Federal Women Offender Distribution

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

Why we are doing this study

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

Women Offender Population: 2012-13 to 2017-18

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

What we did

Historical year-end federal institutional and community supervision counts are recorded as standardized reports in CSC's Corporate Reporting System-Modernized (CRS-M). Similarly, historical counts of federal admissions and releases are also recorded in CRS-M.

Data was extracted from CRS-M (April 15, 2018) capacity module to establish a five-year trend (2012-13 to 2017-18) of the flows into and out of federal custody. Then, a closer examination of the nature of the turnover (admissions/releases) in the population was undertaken.

What we found

Overall, admissions to federal custody for women have risen from **412** in 2012-13 to **519** in 2017-18; a substantial difference of **+107** (or +26.0%). When unpacking this increase by type of federal admission it is notable that

the percentage of admissions to federal custody through conditional release revocations has decreased from 32.3% in 2012-13 to 28.5% in 2017-18.

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

National Population Flows: 2012-13 to 2017-18

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

What it means

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

For more information

Please e-mail the [Research Branch](#) or contact us by phone at (613) 995-3975.

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