

CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.

Indigenous Federal Admissions and Releases: 2013-14 to 2018-19

Increasing representation of Indigenous offenders in federal custody can be attributed to more newly sentenced admissions.

Why we are doing this study

Over the past five years, there has been an increase (+1,067 or 22%) in the number of Indigenous offenders under federal jurisdiction [from **4,847** at year-end in 2013-14 to **5,914** in 2018-19]. While the representation of Indigenous offenders in federal custody has changed from **23%** at year-end 2013-14 to **29%** in 2018-19, there has also been steady growth in the conditional release supervision population [from **17%** at year-end in 2013-14 to **19%** in 2018-19]. A fuller understanding of the sources for growth can facilitate the effective allocation of resources.

Indigenous Offender Population: 2013-14 to 2018-19

Fiscal Year	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Custody	3,540	3,657	3,783	3,798	3,917	4,168
Community	1,307	1,352	1,444	1,524	1,655	1,746
Total	4,847	5,009	5,227	5,322	5,572	5,914

What we did

Historical year-end institutional and community supervision counts and profiles for all federal offenders 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 (June 15, 2019) movement module to establish a five-year trend (2013-14 to 2018-19) of the flows in and out of federal custody.

What we found

As reflected in the following table, new admissions to federal custody for Indigenous offenders have risen from **1,218** in 2013-14 to **1,350** in 2018-19; a substantial difference of **+132** (or +11.0%). Unpacking new admissions by administrative region, it is notable that there has been a decline in the Atlantic, Quebec and Pacific regions. However, in Ontario and Prairies there has been an increase. Moreover, for the Prairies region there has been an increase from **699** in 2013-14 to **868** in 2018-19, accounting for nearly two-thirds (64%) of all new Indigenous admissions to federal custody.

Importantly, Indigenous federal re-admissions due to revocation of conditional release have declined as well.

Population Flows In: 2013-14 to 2018-19

	Admissions (Newly Sentenced)		Admissions (Revocations)	
	2013-14	2018-19	2013-14	2018-19
Atlantic	67	58	36	32
Quebec	139	106	70	44
Ontario	180	202	99	75
Prairies	699	868	593	604
Pacific	133	116	105	78
National	1,218	1,350	903	833

With respect to Indigenous population flows out of custody, discretionary releases being granted by the Parole Board of Canada have almost doubled (by 94%) since 2013-14. Also noteworthy, the Prairie region accounts for nearly two-thirds of this type of release. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, non-discretionary release for Indigenous offenders appears to have declined Service-wide.

Population Flows Out: 2013-14 to 2018-19

	Releases (Discretionary)		Releases (Non-discretionary)	
	2013-14	2018-19	2013-14	2018-19
Atlantic	22	47	95	41
Quebec	40	43	160	105
Ontario	28	82	248	235
Prairies	159	292	1,068	963
Pacific	52	120	212	169
National	301	584	1,783	1,513

What it means

The finding that new admissions of Indigenous offenders to federal custody continue to exceed the rate of discretionary release points to the need for improved upstream criminal justice system interventions.

For more information

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

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