

Glossary of terms

Actual- in count – Refers to the average daily midnight count of offenders who are legally required to be at a facility and are present at the time a head count is taken.

Admissions – Admission data describe and measure the changing case flow of correctional agencies over time. These data do not indicate the number of unique individuals using correctional services since the same person can be included several times in annual admission totals. The Adult Correctional Services Survey collects the following information on those admitted to custody: sentence disposition/length; age and sex of the offender; ethnicity of the offender (i.e., Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal), and, offence for which the offender was convicted.

Adults charged – Refers to the number of persons who were charged by the police in connection with a particular incident. If a person is charged with more than one offence, the most serious offence rule is applied, that is, the most serious offence is recorded.

Age – Refers to the age of the person at the time of admission to a correctional facility.

Aggregate sentence - The sum of all consecutive sentences imposed.

Average daily counts – Since the number of offenders in the correctional population varies from day to day (as inmates are released, and other prisoners admitted), correctional authorities conduct daily inmate count of inmates under their care. Counts provide a snapshot of the inmate population on any given day and are then used to calculate an annual average count. The only other data collected by the Adult Correctional Services Survey in conjunction with the counts are the status of the inmates (i.e., remand/sentenced/other).

Capacity – Refers to the "design capacity" of the institution. The **operational** capacity refers to number of inmates the facility is designed to hold under normal circumstances. The **special** purpose capacity refers to the number of special beds used in the institution for sickness, discipline, protective custody or segregation.

Community service order (CSO) – A court order that the offender performs a certain number of hours of volunteer work or service in the community.

Conditional release – The planned and gradual release of inmates into the community through release mechanisms such as day parole, full parole, temporary absence passes, and statutory release.

Conditional sentence – An important provision of recent sentencing reforms (Bill C-41) was the creation in September 1996 of a new type of community-based alternative to imprisonment called a conditional sentence. If certain legal criteria are fulfilled, a judge may sentence to a conditional term of imprisonment an offender who would otherwise have been sent to prison. According to the terms of the conditional sentence, the offender will serve the term of imprisonment in the community, provided that he/she abides by conditions imposed by the court as part of the conditional sentence order. If the offender violates these conditions, he may be sent to prison to serve the balance of that sentence.

Constant dollars – Dollar amounts calculated on a one-year base that adjusts for inflation making the yearly amount directly comparable.

Disposition – A court sentence ordered upon finding a person guilty of an offence.

Escape – These are escapes from lawful custody or being at large before the expiration of a term of imprisonment.

Escapes from multi-level and maximum security – These escapes refer to the unlawful departure from the confines or property of a multi-level or maximum security institution.

Escapes from medium security – These escapes refer to the unlawful departure from the confines or property of a medium security institution.

Escapes from minimum security – The unauthorized departure of an inmate from a minimum security level institution.

Type of Escape –The Criminal Code defines an escape as breaking out of prison, escaping from lawful custody or being at large before the expiration of a term of imprisonment.

- From a secure institution (i.e. breach of security barrier)
- From an open facility (i.e. walk away - no breach of security barrier)

Glossary of terms - continued

Type of Escape – continued

- From an escorted temporary absence
- From an unescorted temporary absence
- Other to be specified by jurisdiction

Judicial interim release – The release of an offender into the community while awaiting a further court appearance.

Median – A median represents the mid point when the values are arranged in order of magnitude; one-half of the observations have a value less than the median and one-half of the observations have a value greater than the median.

Most serious disposition (MSD) – If an offender receives more than one conviction, the offence with the longest sentence, as stated in the Criminal Code, is the one recorded and reported in the Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Most serious offence (MSO) – This measure is based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey which classifies incidents according to the most serious offence in the incident. The Adult Correctional Services Survey uses the same rule in determining the most serious offence for which an offender is sentenced. For example, if an offender is sentenced with more than one offence, the most serious offence rule states that where several offences occur in one incident, only the most serious offence, based on penalties in the Criminal Code of Canada, is recorded. In addition, the seriousness index, used by respondents from the ICSS to tabulate most serious offences (MSO), has been updated and no longer automatically ranks violent offences as more serious than non-violent offences. Accordingly, comparison to previous years and previous publications should be made with caution because, for example, some admissions which would have formerly been classified as 'violent' may now be classified as non-violent (see Methodology section for list of ICSS jurisdictions).

Multiple charge (MC) – If an offender is charged with, and found guilty of more than one offence, all charges will be recorded and reported in the Adult Correctional Services Survey.

On-register count – Refers to the number of inmates who are on-register at the institution. Some inmates may be temporarily absent from the institution for medical reasons, on temporary absence, on day parole or are unlawfully at large.

Other *Criminal Code* incidents – These incidents involve the remaining *Criminal Code* offences that are not classified as violent or property (excluding traffic offences). Examples are mischief, bail violations, disturbing the peace, arson, prostitution and offensive weapons.

Other federal statute offences – These incidents include violations under federal statutes other than the *Criminal Code*, the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* and the *Food and Drug Act*. About one-half of the incidents in this category fall under the *Canada Shipping Act*, the *Immigration Act*, the *Customs Act*, the *Excise Act* and the *Bankruptcy Act*.

Other temporary detention – Refers to those inmates who are not sentenced or on remand. Typically includes offenders held for immigration purposes or admissions for parole suspension.

Per capita – Refers to a calculation made using the expenditure and dividing it by the total population, to represent the cost to every Canadian for maintaining offenders in custody.

Probation – Probation orders are dispositions imposed by the court that are a non-custodial sentence. They are the release of an offender into the community under the supervision of a probation officer. The release is conditional on the offender acting in a manner stipulated by his or her probation officer.

Remand – Refers to a person ordered by the court to be held in custody while awaiting a further court appearance. These persons have not been sentenced and can be held for a number of reasons (e.g., risk that they won't appear for their court date, danger to themselves and/or others, risk to re-offend).

Glossary of terms - end

Residency condition - A residency condition refers to a condition requiring the offender to reside in a halfway house while on statutory release. The Parole Board can make a residency-related decision prior to release (pre-release) or afterward (post-release). The types of decisions are:

Imposed: A residency condition is imposed at the time of release (pre-release), or at any time during the supervision period (post-release).

Also includes cases which were referred for detention and in which the final decision was statutory release with residency.

Cancelled: A residency condition that was imposed is removed before release has taken place (pre-release).

Prolonged: A residency condition is extended without interruption during the same supervision period.

Removed: A residency condition is removed after a release has taken place (post-release).

Restitution order – A condition requiring the offender to make restitution for injuries or to pay compensation for loss of or damage to property as a result of the offence.

Revocation – A revocation occurs when an offender on parole or statutory release is incarcerated as a result of an additional sentence or a violation of conditions for an offence committed while on release.

Security level of government-operated adult custodial facilities – Provincial and territorial correctional facilities are classified as either secure, open or having a multilevel setting (secure and open).

Secure – when inmates are detained by security devices, including those which operate with full perimeter security features and/or whose inmates are under constant supervision or observation.

Open – denotes the minimal use of security devices or perimeter security and/or where supervision of inmates is only partial. Work camps and community-based correctional facilities are often considered to have an open security level. If the security level of an affiliated facility differs from that of the base facility, the security level of the base is reported.

Statutory release – Federal offenders are eligible to apply for parole after serving one-third of their sentence. Many federal offenders who are not granted parole must be released into the community after serving two-thirds of their sentence. This process is referred to as statutory release.

Total days stay – Total days stay is calculated by multiplying the average daily actual-in count for each jurisdiction by the number of days in the particular fiscal year.

Warrant of committal – Refers to the legal document specifying the sentence for which the offender is to be incarcerated to a provincial/territorial or federal institution.