_____ **Research Report** _____

**Federal Offenders with a High Reintegration
Potential (RP): Characteristics and
Community Outcomes**

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Federal Offenders with a High Reintegration Potential (RP):
Characteristics and Community Outcomes

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Executive Summary

Key words: *risk assessment, correctional outcome, release, reintegration plan, reintegration potential.*

Correctional systems are tasked with managing a diverse population of offenders from those who could be released from custody early in their sentence, without risk of re-offence; to those who may never be safely released. The challenge is to identify those suitable for early release through an effective assessment process. In addition to individual measures of risk, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC or the Service) calculates a reintegration potential (RP) score; this RP classification forms the basis of the offender's correctional plan and paves the way for a specific correctional path. Given the potential value of effective assessment for identifying lower risk offenders, it is important to know whether the expected differences in the flow of offenders through correctional systems can actually be demonstrated. To do so, this research examined the characteristics of 21,746 offenders admitted to the CSC between 2002 and 2006 and recorded the success of their releases into the community until January 2010. Of this group, a total of 8,824 offenders identified at admission as being lower risk (high RP) were followed through the system from admission to release (and for those who were not successful, back to custody) in order to investigate the characteristics of these offenders and to determine if they are following a correctional trajectory that is consistent with what would be expected for this group.

A profile of offenders with a high RP was created through the examination of admission information, institutional experiences, and community outcomes. These results were then compared against those who were designated as offenders with medium or low RPs in order to identify the distinct attributes of the high RP cohort. Analyses were conducted separately for four groups of offenders (study groups); non-Aboriginal males (n=16,815), Aboriginal males (n=3,731), non-Aboriginal women (n=876) and Aboriginal women (n=324).

At the time of admission, both high RP non-Aboriginal offender groups were found to be significantly older than their medium and low RP counterparts. Generally, males with a high RP tended to be admitted for shorter sentence lengths than the medium and low RP groups, although this relationship did not always hold true for the women's groups. Offenders with a high RP were also generally less likely to be admitted with a violent offence, and more likely to be admitted for a drug-related offence than offenders with medium or low RPs.

Examination of institutional experience revealed that only non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP differed from their medium RP counterparts in institutional program participation – they were more likely to start and complete programs – and only non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were less likely than their low RP counterparts to complete programs. Where there were significant differences in institutional employment, the high RP groups were always employed for significantly fewer days than the other RP levels, even when time served in the institution was taken into account. The high RP Aboriginal groups did not differ from the medium RP groups and the high RP Aboriginal women group did not differ from the low RP group in terms of involvement in institutional incidents, however in all other instances, the high RP groups were significantly less likely than the medium and low RP groups to be involved in

institutional incidents as the instigator/associate.

When considering release types, results indicated that offenders with a high RP were generally more likely than offenders with medium and low RPs to participate in escorted and unescorted temporary absences (ETAs and UTAs), with limited exceptions for women offenders. Overall, offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than the other RP levels to be granted day or full parole as their first release from custody, again with limited exceptions for women offenders – for example there was no significant difference in this regard when comparing high and medium RP Aboriginal women. All four high RP offender groups served a significantly smaller percentage of their sentence prior to their first release than offenders in the medium and low RP groups.

Finally, survival analyses conducted to determine differences in the risk of failure upon release for the three RP levels found that for all four interest groups, offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely to be successful on release, and less likely to experience a revocation or a new offence upon release. Specifically, being an offender with a medium RP rather than an offender with a low RP was found to increase the hazard of return to custody by between 1.52 (Aboriginal males) and 2.39 (non-Aboriginal males), and being an offender with a low RP rather than an offender with a high RP increased the hazard of return to custody by between 1.93 (Aboriginal males) and 3.37 (non-Aboriginal males).

In conclusion, based on these outcomes, it would appear that the designation of high reintegration potential is associated with better access to correctional resources and earlier release from prison to serve the balance of the sentence in the community. Offenders with a high RP are generally following a correctional trajectory appropriate for that RP level and are performing as would be expected in the community. However, it should be noted that not all offenders who are identified as having a high RP are actually released early, nor do they all succeed after release. This demonstrates the variability of risk within the high RP group and suggests that reintegration potential may require some adjustments to the scoring which serves to define the levels for the three groups.

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Introduction

Correctional systems are tasked with managing a diverse population of offenders from those who could be released from custody very early in their sentence without risk of re-offending to those who may never be released safely into the community. The challenge for correctional administrators is to identify those who can be released early and safely, thereby reducing the time spent in custody. Reducing the time offenders serve in custody can have several benefits for a correctional organization.

First, research has demonstrated that treatment is more effective when provided in the community than in a correctional institution (Andrews, 2001; Andrews et al., 1990). Delaying the transition of offenders through the correctional system risks overburdening institutional correctional programs (resulting in waiting lists and delayed access to programming) while underutilizing established resources in the community. Reductions to time spent in custody can promote the effective use of correctional resources; prompting early participation in community programming and serving to streamline access to institutional programming for those who are most in need.

Second, the mandate of several correctional jurisdictions includes providing the least restrictive means of control – in Canada, the Corrections and Conditional Release Act directs the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC or the Service) to use the least restrictive measures consistent with the protection of the public, staff members and offenders. If an offender can be managed effectively and safely in the community, then this is the least restrictive means. Further, for jurisdictions with over-crowded prisons, safely reducing time spent in custody may increase the availability of prison cells.

Finally, incarceration is a very expensive option, compared to community supervision. For example, in Canada, it costs approximately four times as much per year to maintain an offender in custody ($101,666) than it costs to supervise an offender in the community on parole ($24,825) (Public Safety Canada, 2009). With the annual costs of maintaining an incarcerated offender rising each year, this difference represents a substantial expenditure of resources presently and in the future, and as such reductions in time spent in custody can produce major cost savings for a jurisdiction.

The selection of offenders suitable for early release has been called "decarceration" (Motiuk & Serin, 1998) and requires candidates to be identified for decarceration at the beginning of their sentence, through an effective assessment process. Good correctional practice requires that offenders be assessed for their level of risk when admitted to a correctional system. Effective use of assessment results should impact the level of institutional security to which an offender is assigned, program opportunities, pre-release options and ultimately, release. In addition, the assessed level of risk should be related to the outcome of the release, that is, does the offender remain safely in the community for a longer period of time if they are identified as being at a lower level of risk.

The characteristics of effective risk assessment have been identified in the research literature. Risk assessments should be objective, based on factors known to be associated with re-offending, and should be evidence-based. Bonta and Andrews (2007) have argued that risk assessment development can be divided into four historical phases (see also Andrews & Bonta, 2003 and Andrews, Bonta & Wormith, 2006). The initial assessments, or first generation assessments, were based on unstructured, non-systemic, and subjective clinical judgement. Second generation risk assessments were designed to provide efficient, standardized risk predictions and relied on historical or static factors, such as gender, age and history or prior offences to determine the level of risk. More modern assessment instruments introduced criminogenic needs or dynamic risk factors into the assessment which are variable in nature and can change with time or with the influence of social, psychological, biological, or contextual factors. Combined with historical or static risk factors, assessment of criminogenic needs provides the most effective assessment of risk (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Andrews, Bonta & Wormith, 2006; Douglas & Skeem, 2005).

The identification of criminogenic needs was an important step in the development of assessment instruments as it not only provided a stronger link between the assessed level of risk and outcomes, but it also provided for the identification of offender problem areas that could be impacted by treatment (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Bonta, 2002; Bonta & Andrews, 2007). Andrews and Bonta (2003) identified the "Big Eight" best-validated risk factors for criminal behaviour: antisocial attitudes, antisocial associates, history of antisocial behaviour, antisocial personality pattern, problematic circumstances at home (family/marital), problematic circumstances at school or work, problematic leisure circumstances and substance abuse. By

addressing the dynamic risk factors, or criminogenic needs, the offender's risk of re-offending could be reduced. Dynamic factors used by CSC include employment and education, attitudes, associates, social/emotional, substance abuse, marital/family relationships, all of which have been shown to be related to release outcomes.

Bonta and Andrews (2007) also describe the 4th generation risk assessment instruments as those that contain the dynamic risk factors, but also incorporate a case management system that monitors changes in an offender's criminogenic needs. These instruments are administered on multiple occasions and are informative because they document changes in specific criminogenic needs, and the overall risk potential, that might occur between an offender's initial contact with the criminal justice system through his or her exit from the system (Campbell, French & Gendreau, 2007). In this way, the offender's assessed level of risk can be monitored and adjusted as they show changes in behaviour.

Today, correctional systems employ a variety of risk assessment procedures and instruments, drawn from these four historical phases, to classify offenders in order to place them in suitable levels of institutional security. These risk assessment tools are also used to assist in decisions regarding when and under what conditions an offender may be released from an institution, and are used to determine the appropriate treatment interventions and the level of supervision required to maintain an offender safely in the community (Cormier, 2007).

The CSC relies predominantly on 3rd generation risk assessment tools that measure both criminal history risk and criminogenic needs to determine assignment to security level and for assessment of risk for treatment and release purposes. At the time of admission, all federally sentenced offenders undergo a comprehensive and integrated Offender Intake Assessment (OIA) process which has a number of components (Motiuk & Nafekh, 2001).

For institutional security level, CSC relies on the Custody Rating Scale (CSC, 2010a; Motiuk, 2007), which is comprised of two separate dimensions – an institutional adjustment sub-scale and a security risk sub-scale. As the scores on the sub-scales increase, the offender's assessed level of security also increases indicating that a higher level of security is required to safely maintain the offender in custody, and to protect the public, CSC staff and the offender.

For other activities, including recommendations for programming, intake parole officers complete a Criminal History Risk Assessment (CSC 2010a; Motiuk, 2007), comprised of the Criminal History Record, Offence Severity Record, and Sex Offender summary index, and the

Dynamic Needs Identification and Analysis (DFIA) (Brown & Motiuk, 2005) to produce risk assessments for static and dynamic risk. For the static risk assessment, a rating of low reflects cases in which the Criminal History Record summary index reflects little or no involvement with the criminal justice system; the Offence Severity Record summary index reflects little or no harm to society in general, and victims in particular; and the Sex Offender History summary index reflects little or no sex offending (Motiuk, 2007). For the dynamic risk assessment, a rating of low reflects cases in which offenders have no identified dynamic risk factors (e.g. factors seen as an asset to community adjustment and/or no immediate need for improvement) or relatively few identified dynamic risk factors and rated as "some need for improvement" (Motiuk, 2007).

Based on the risk-need-responsivity model developed by Andrews and Bonta (2003), incorporating static and dynamic risk assessments, more intensive human services are best reserved for offenders with higher risk ratings. Offenders with lower risk ratings have a low probability of recidivism even in the absence of service (Andrews, 2001). Rather than participating in programming, many low risk individuals should focus on maintaining pro-social ties, be considered for work release opportunities, and have a limited length of stay in residential programming (Lowenkamp & Latessa, 2005).

Finally, the Service also uses the Statistical Information on Recidivism (SIR) scale to provide an assessment of likelihood of re-offending. Used only for non-Aboriginal male offenders, the scale combines measures of demographic characteristics and criminal history in a scoring system that yields probability estimates of success or failure within three years of release (Nafekh & Motiuk, 2002).

In addition to these individual measures of risk, the Service calculates a Reintegration Potential (RP) score. Forming the basis of their correctional plan (the foundation upon which release is predicated and often the basis upon which discretionary release is supported or denied), an offender's RP classification paves the way for a specific correctional path. Reintegration Potential is calculated based on an offender's individual scores on the scales described above and produces a three point rating: high, medium or low. Offenders identified as having a high reintegration potential are considered most likely to succeed on release and could be described as low-risk offenders, or even moderate-risk offenders by virtue of the type and extent of their criminality which has resulted in them receiving a serious enough sentence to bring them under CSC's jurisdiction (Motiuk & Serin, 1998). The combination of the scales used to determine an

offender's RP should improve the reliability of the risk prediction as each scale has its own strengths and weaknesses.

It is important to note that there is no one scale that can predict, with perfect accuracy, which offenders will succeed on release, and that complete homogeneity of risk within each classification group is unlikely. If cut-off scores for selection are set to optimize success, and eliminate any chance of failure, they may prevent good candidates from being released early. Further, within each RP group there are a range of responses that serve to inform an offender's potential for release, demonstrating that there is variability of risk within the RP level. For example, not all high RP offenders have a low rating for criminogenic needs; a high RP offender may have difficulties in areas such as substance abuse, identified as considerable need for improvement, which should be addressed. Failure to address these needs may result in a delayed release. Any tool, as with reintegration potential, should be used as a guide and not as a definitive indication of the potential outcome for an offender.

While many studies have examined the relationship between risk assessment instruments and correctional outcomes after release (for example, see Bonta 2002; Campbell, French & Gendreau, 2007; Cormier, 1997; Grann, Belfrage & Tengström, 2000; Kroner & Mills, 2001; Mills, Kroner, & Hemmati, 2004; Raynor, 2007), studies have generally neglected to report on the relationship between risk assessment results and the trajectory offenders take through the custodial system. In addition, concerns have also recently been raised regarding the transition of offenders with a high reintegration potential – specifically with regard to the time it takes for them to proceed through the correctional system and into the community. A prior study of OIA Profiles on the Offender Management System (OMS) showed that those classified as low risk/low need (or high RP) were on average 307 days past parole eligibility, while those classified as low risk/medium need were 261 days past parole eligibility (Luciani, 1998). Based on this gap in knowledge in risk assessment as it relates to offenders' custodial trajectories, additional research in this area is needed.

Given the potential value of effective assessment for identifying lower risk offenders, and then providing them with opportunities that will increase their probability of safe release, it is important to know whether the expected differences in the flow of offenders through correctional systems can actually be demonstrated. To do so, a group of offenders, identified at admission as being lower risk (high RP) were followed through the system from admission to release (and for

those who were not successful, back to custody) in order to investigate the characteristics of these offenders and to determine if they proceed through the federal correctional system in a manner that is consistent with what would be expected for this group.

Offenders assessed as lower risk, those with a high reintegration potential, are expected to pose less of a risk for recidivism, and to public safety overall, than their higher risk counterparts. This lessened risk should be observable in their admission profiles, treatment and programming needs (Andrews & Bonta, 2003; Motiuk & Belcourt, 1996a), institutional adjustment (Berg & DeLisi, 2006), and release profiles and outcomes (Grant & Gal, 1998) and should be captured by the risk assessment tools previously discussed. If the assessments are accurate, and if they are being used in judgements about opportunities, the following hypotheses should be supported:

1. High RP offenders should be serving shorter aggregate sentences, and should be less likely to be admitted with violent offences than their medium and low RP counterparts.

2. High RP offenders should require fewer institutional correctional and education programs and should participate in fewer employment placements than their medium and low RP counterparts.

3. High RP offenders should have fewer institutional incidents than their medium and low RP counterparts.

4. High RP offenders should be more likely to be released from a minimum security penitentiary than their medium and low RP counterparts.

5. High RP offenders not released on, or before their parole eligibility date should have earlier access to escorted and unescorted temporary absences (ETAs and UTAs), representing the first step to early release on day parole or full parole, than their medium and low RP counterparts.

6. High RP offenders should be more likely to be granted early discretionary releases (day parole or full parole) than their medium and low RP counterparts, and few high RP offenders should be released at their statutory release dates.

7. High RP offenders should serve a shorter percentage of their sentence before their first release than their medium and low RP counterparts.

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8. High RP offenders should remain in the community longer and should be less likely to be returned to custody for any reason (revocation or new offence) than their medium and low RP counterparts.

Finally, it is known that assessments can differentially impact various groups of offenders (Dell & Boe, 2000; DeMatteo, Hunt, Batastini & LaDuke, 2010; Rugge, 2006). For the purposes of this study, data were analyzed separately for four groups (study groups): male, non-Aboriginal offenders who represent the largest number of offenders; male Aboriginal offenders; women non-Aboriginal offenders and women Aboriginal offenders.

Method

Sample

The sample for this study consisted of all offenders admitted to the CSC on a new federal sentence between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2006. To allow for the profiling and comparison of the reintegration potential of offenders, the study cohort was divided into three groups: low reintegration potential, medium reintegration potential, and high reintegration potential as scored by the Offender Intake Assessment (OIA). As of December 31, 2009, data were available for 22,037 offenders.[1] However, reintegration potential scores at admission were not available for 1% (*n*=291) of these offenders. Thus, the study cohort consisted of 21,746 offenders, comprised of 16,815 (77%) non-Aboriginal male offenders, 3,731 (17%) Aboriginal male offenders, 876 (4%) non-Aboriginal women offenders, and 324 (2%) Aboriginal women offenders.[2]

Procedure

All data utilized in this study were extracted from CSC's automated database, the Offender Management System (OMS). The passage of offenders with a high RP through the correctional system was explored through the examination of admission profiles, program participation, institutional adjustment, and community outcomes upon release. Characteristics unique to offenders with a high RP were identified through comparisons between this group and those classified as medium RP and low RP via univariate and multivariate analyses of variance (ANOVA[3]) and covariance (ANCOVA and MANCOVA[4]), as well as contingency table analyses.[5] All multiple comparisons for significant omnibus tests were conducted at adjusted

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[1] Depending on the analyses, either the full follow-up period available or a set period (as noted) was used, as appropriate.

[2] Although the entire population of admissions was considered for inclusion for this study, 1% were excluded due to lack of a reintegration potential score. For this reason, the report refers to the included offenders as a 'sample' rather than a study 'population'.

[3] When assumptions of homogeneity of variance were violated, a result of unequal sample sizes between RP level groups, Welch's *F* test was applied. Further, when carrying out post-hoc tests, the Games-Howell procedure was used, a method that does not rely on the assumption of equal variances (Field, 2009).

[4] When assumptions of homogeneity of covariance matrices were violated, a result of small or unequal sample sizes between RP level groups, Pillai's criterion was used in addition to Wilks' λ to evaluate multivariate significance (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2007). However, in order to maintain consistency, only the Wilks' λ was reported.

[5] Where adequate cell size assumptions were not met in 2x2 contingency table analyses, the Yates correction was applied. In contingency tables larger than 2x2, 80% of expected values were required to be greater than five for interpretation to be meaningful (as per Lieberman, 1971).

power levels using the Bonferroni correction. Survival analyses were used to identify the predictors of conditional release success for offenders with a high RP and to examine whether risk of return to custody over time differed between the three RP levels.

Since this study aimed to investigate the characteristics of high RP offenders in order to understand their correctional experiences and community outcomes, descriptive statistics adding context to offender admission profiles, program participation, institutional adjustment, and community outcomes upon release are, for the most part, only reported for the high RP group and not for the other two RP groups. Further, due to the unique profiles of some correctional populations, analyses were conducted separately for non-Aboriginal male offenders, Aboriginal male offenders, non-Aboriginal women offenders, and Aboriginal women offenders. Comparisons across these groups were not conducted as part of this study due in part to variations in the measurement of RP level across these populations.

Measures

Several measures of interest were extracted from the Offender Intake Assessment (OIA) as recorded in OMS. The OIA is the first step in the correctional planning process and contains all relevant information pertaining to the offender's case, including criminal records, police reports, court transcripts, judges' comments, pre-sentence reports, community assessments and victim impact statements. In addition, the OIA screens for immediate physical and mental health concerns, security issues, and programming needs.

Several key variables were extracted from the OMS including information on admission, institutional program participation, institutional adjustment, and release profiles and outcomes.

Admission Information. Data on several demographic variables were collected including offenders' region of admission (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, or Pacific), ethnocultural group, and age at admission. Information on current sentence length and information on current admission offences were also collected, including number and type of current offences (violent, drug, property or other non-violent offences).

Institutional program participation. Information was collected on the number and type of institutional correctional programs in which offenders participated (enrolled in and completed). The following are the core correctional programs offered to offenders: substance abuse, living skills, sex offender, family violence, violence, Counter-Point, and women's programs.

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Information was also collected on education program participation and the length of time offenders spent in these programs. Finally information was collected on institutional employment including participation in non-CORCAN and CORCAN placements and the length of time offenders spent in these placements.

Institutional adjustment. Data was collected on offenders' participation in institutional incidents and two variables indicated offenders' roles (as instigator/associates and as victims) in different types of institutional incidents (assault, inmate fight, possession of contraband, unauthorized item, minor disturbance, disciplinary problem, intelligence, and other). Information was also collected on changes in security level including offenders' security level rating at admission and upon release (minimum, medium or maximum). Finally, information was collected on the number of escorted and unescorted temporary absences in which offenders participated during their period of incarceration as well as the type of ETA and UTA most frequently participated in (administrative, community service, family contact, compassionate, parental responsibilities, 15 day personal development, 60 day personal development and medical) and the length of sentence served prior to participation.

Release profiles and outcomes. Data was collected on the first type of release experienced by offenders (day parole, full parole, statutory release or warrant expiry) as well as the percentage of sentence served prior to first release. Information was also collected on the number and type of community correctional programs in which offenders participated (enrolled in). The following are the core correctional programs offered to offenders in the community: substance abuse, living skills, sex offender, family violence, violence, Counter-point, and women's programs. Information on employment status in the community (employed, unemployed or student) was also collected. Finally, release outcome was examined including whether offenders failed (revocation or new offence) or were successful on their first release, and the time to failure.

Reintegration potential (RP)

The reintegration potential (RP) rating provides a useful reference point for clinical assessment. It is a rating of an offender's potential for assimilating back into the community upon release. It has the further advantage of allowing the Service to profile its offender population for planning, case management and program delivery, and for appropriately targeting offenders for intensive release preparation (Taylor, 2001).

It combines the results of three risk scales that have been found to be useful in confirming recidivism potential (Motiuk, 1998). For male, non-Aboriginal offenders, reintegration potential is calculated using an offender's individual scores on the Custody Rating Scale (CRS), Statistical Information on Recidivism (SIR) scale, and the Static Factor Assessment rating. For women and Aboriginal offenders, reintegration potential is calculated using an offender's individual scores on the Custody Rating Scale (CRS), Dynamic Factor Assessment rating, and the Static Factor Assessment rating (CSC, 2007).

Custody Rating Scale (CRS). The CRS is a tool that assists in the determination of the most appropriate level of security for the initial penitentiary placement of the offender or any subsequent readmission. The scale is completed by assigning scores to a number of factors on two dimensions: institutional adjustment and security risk. Cut-off scores are used in order to assign an offender a minimum, medium, or maximum security rating (CSC, 2010a).

Statistical Information on Recidivism (SIR). The SIR is a statistically-derived tool for predicting the recidivism of offenders released from institutions. The scale combines measures of demographic characteristics and criminal history in a scoring system that yields probability estimates of success or failure within three years of release. Cut-off scores are used in order to assign offenders to one of five groups: very good, good, fair, fair to poor, poor and to provide an overall rating of high, moderate or low. It is only used with non-Aboriginal male offenders (Nafekh & Motiuk, 2002).

Static Factor Assessment. A key element in the development of an offender's correctional plan, the Static Factor Assessment is based on the completion of the following risk assessment tools: the criminal history record, the offence severity record, and the sex offence history checklist. When all questions to the above tools are completed, OMS tabulates a rating for each of the three tools. The higher the number of positive responses, the greater the criminal risk. Based on their scores, offenders are assigned a rating of high, medium or low risk (CSC, 2010a; Motiuk, 2007).

Dynamic Factor Assessment. A key element in the development of an offender's correctional plan, the protocol used to conduct this assessment is the Dynamic Factors Identification and Analysis (DFIA). It is comprised of seven domains: employment, marital/family, associates and social interaction, substance abuse, community functioning, personal/emotional orientation and attitude. The objective of this assessment is to gain a detailed

understanding of both the strengths and problems related to each domain. OMS automatically scores the number of responses for each domain and the domains are ranked in the order of priority. Offenders are assigned a rating for each domain area as follows: factor seen as an asset to community adjustment, no immediate need for improvement, some need for improvement or considerable need for improvement (Brown & Motiuk, 2005; CSC, 2010a). Based on their levels of need in each of the domains, offenders are assigned an overall rating of high, medium or low.

Using the offender's individual scores on the three relevant scales, OMS categorizes offenders into one of three possible RP groups using a decision matrix. To illustrate, if high security (maximum), high risk (based on SIR score and static risk) and high need are each assigned a score of '3'; low security (minimum), low risk and low need are each assigned a score of '1'; and medium security, medium risk and medium need are each assigned a score of '2' – then offenders with an overall score of 5 or less are assigned to the high RP group; those with a score of 6 are assigned to the medium RP group; and those with a sore of 7 or more are assigned to the low RP group. However, it should be noted that this is a rough scoring system and that RP assignment is more complicated. For example, having three medium scale scores (resulting in a score of 6) places the offender in the high RP group, and having two medium and one high scale score (resulting in a score of 7) places the offender in the medium RP group.

In addition to the decision matrix used to categorize offenders, Appendix C of the Commissioner's Directive – Progress Against the Correctional Plan (CD-710-1) provides guidelines for program referral based on an offender's reintegration potential group.

High reintegration potential (high RP): Offenders should not normally require correctional interventions (living skills, substance abuse, family violence, sex offender treatment). If required, these interventions should be provided in the community. Other reintegration programs, services and work placements (including employability skills development) may be used, as well as any other risk management strategies, other than programs, in both institutions and the community.

Medium reintegration potential (medium RP): Based on the level of dynamic factors, programming can include institutional correctional programs combined with maintenance programs in the community; alternatively, programs can be provided in the community during the period of day parole or program UTA prior to full parole release. Provision of correctional programming in institutions occurs where there is justification based on the offender's static and

dynamic factors, and where prescribed programs are designed to reduce the risk prior to considering release. Other reintegration programs, services and work placements (including employability skills development) may be used, as well as any other risk management strategies other than programs, in both institutions and the community.

Low reintegration potential (low RP): Correctional programs (living skills, substance abuse, family violence, sex offender treatment) and other reintegration programming (employment, education, social programs) are to be provided in institutions prior to release, and continued thereafter in the community as required. The full range of risk management strategies should be used, both in institutions and the community, as adapted to the risk posed by the individual offender.

Results: Non-Aboriginal Males

Admission Information

In total, 16,815 non-Aboriginal males admitted to the Correctional Service of Canada on a new sentence over a period of five years (2002-2006) were included in the sample. Almost half (45%, n=7,555) were assessed as having a high reintegration potential (RP). Just over one quarter (27%, n=4,529) were assessed as having a medium RP, and the remainder were assessed as having a low RP (28%, n=4,731).

Demographic information

The following presents a demographic summary of non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP.[6] As illustrated in Table 1, in four of the five regions (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, and Prairies) non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP accounted for at least 40% of all admissions. For this group of offenders, admissions were greatest in the Prairie region (55%, n=1,917) and lowest in the Pacific region (35%, n=622).

Table 1

RP Level Percentages within Regional Admissions: Non-Aboriginal Males

RP Level	Regional Admissions (%)					
	Atlantic (n=2,186)	Quebec (n=4,375)	Ontario (n=4,997)	Prairies (n=3,505)	Pacific (n=1,752)	Overall (N=16,815)
High	50	44	40	55	35	45
Medium	26	33	24	24	27	27
Low	24	23	36	21	37	28

Table 2 outlines the RP distributions across ethnocultural groups. The White group (n=5,903) and the Black group (n=688) had the lowest percentages of offenders with a high RP (42% and 50%, respectively); the other groups had at least 60% of offenders rated as high RP.

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[6] This research aimed to explore the particular correctional experiences and community outcomes of offenders with a high RP. As such, in several instances throughout this section (and in the following sections for Aboriginal males, non-Aboriginal women and Aboriginal women), descriptive statistics are only reported for the high RP group of offenders and not for the other two RP groups.

Table 2

RP Level Percentages within Ethnocultural Status[7]: Non-Aboriginal Males

RP Level	Race (%)							
	White (*n*=14,044)	Black (*n*=1,386)	South/South East Asian (*n*=467)	Other (*n*=425)	Arab/West Asian (*n*=151)	Latin American (*n*=130)	Chinese (*n*=119)	Overall (*N*=16,722)
High	42	50	73	66	69	63	87	45
Medium	29	23	13	18	21	20	8	27
Low	30	28	14	17	11	17	5	28

Note. Race data was missing for 93 non-Aboriginal male offenders.

The average age of non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP at the time of admission was 36 years (*SD*=12). For non-Aboriginal male offenders with medium and low RPs, the average age at time of admission was 33 years (*SD*=10; *SD*=9, respectively). A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) found significant differences in mean age between the three RP levels ($F(2, 16,812) = 158.91$, $p<.001$). Results of pair-wise comparisons found that offenders with a high RP were significantly older at admission than both offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP (Mean difference = 3.21, $p<.001$; Mean difference = 2.83, $p<.001$, respectively).

Sentence length[8]

Non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were serving average aggregate sentence lengths of 1,251 days (3.43 years, *SD*=692), which were shorter than offenders with a medium RP who were averaging 1,365 days (3.75 years, *SD*=847) and offenders with a low RP who were averaging 1,379 days (3.79 years, *SD*=900). The minimum aggregate sentence length for the high RP group was 152 days[9] and the maximum length was 7,670 days (21.05 years). An ANOVA found significant differences in the mean sentence length between the three RP levels ($F(2, 16,254) = 47.05$, $p<.001$). Results of pair-wise comparisons found that offenders with a

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[7] Aboriginal status (Inuit, Métis and First Nations) was omitted from this analysis of ethnocultural status. It is discussed in detail in the Aboriginal Males section of this report.

[8] There were 28 offenders with a high RP, 97 offenders with a medium RP, and 433 offenders with a low RP missing aggregate sentence data. These offenders had either indeterminate (*n*=71) or life sentences (*n*=487). One male offender with a high RP had an aggregate sentence of 18,547 days (50.91 years). This offender was removed from analyses as an outlier.

[9] 33 of the 21,746 offenders in the overall sample (<1%) had sentences shorter than two years. These offenders were all under federal jurisdiction and had shortened sentences due to appeal or were long term supervision order (LTSO) offenders.

high RP had significantly shorter aggregate sentence lengths than both offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP (Mean difference = -114, $p<.001$; Mean difference = -128, $p<.001$, respectively).

Admission offence[10]

Non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP had an average of 5.78 offences (SD=10.99) at admission. The lowest number of current offences was one and the highest number of current offences was 642[11]. Aside from those offences classified as 'other non-violent offences', offenders with a high RP were most often admitted with violent offences (54%, n=4,090), however this was a low percentage relative to the other RP groups (61%, n=2,755 for medium RP offenders and 65%, n=3,079 for low RP offenders). Just over one third of the high RP group were admitted with drug offences (37%, n=2,803), however this was a high percentage relative to the other RP groups (21%, n=975 for medium RP offenders and 15%, n=732 for low RP offenders).

Overall, non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with medium and low RPs to be admitted with drug offences (χ^2(2 , N=16,798) = 784.88, $p<.001$), and significantly less likely to be admitted with violent offences (χ^2(2 , N=16,798) = 150.63, $p<.001$), property offences (χ^2(2 , N=16,798) = 1,123.89, $p<.001$), and other non-violent offences (χ^2(2 , N=16,798) = 290.22, $p<.001$). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 3.

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[10] Admission offence data was available for 7,542 (>99%) non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP.
[11] Mean number of offences changed from 5.78 (SD=10.99) to 5.70 (SD=8.19) when the individual who committed 642 offences was omitted from analyses. Median number of offences for the 7,542 offenders equalled 3.00.

Table 3

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Admission Offence Type: Non-Aboriginal Males

Admission Offence Type	RP Level (%)			
	High (*n*=7,542)	Medium (*n*=4,528)	Low (*n*=4,728)	Overall (*N*=16,798)
Violent Offences	54	61	65	59
Drug Offences	37	21	15	27
Property Offences	22	47	47	36
Other Non-Violent Offences	56	71	66	63
	Z scores			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Violent Offences	-7.10***	-11.91***	-4.26***	
Drug Offences	17.93***	25.81***	7.50***	
Property Offences	-28.38***	-28.83***	0.07	
Other Non-Violent Offences	-15.82***	-11.46***	4.21***	

Note. ***$p<.001$. Violent offences include homicide, robbery, sex, weapon, assault and kidnapping/hostage taking/forcible confinement offences as well as other violent offences (arson, utter threats). Drug offences include import/export, production, trafficking and possession offences. Property offences include theft and break & enter offences. Other non-violent offences include escape/UAL and all other non-violent offences.

Institutional Program Participation

Correctional programs

Table 4 outlines the institutional correctional programs in which non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP participated. Collectively, 52% (*n*=3,902) of the 7,555 high RP offenders participated in institutional correctional programming compared to 67% (*n*=3,054) of the 4,529 medium RP offenders and 66% (*n*=3,123) of the 4,731 low RP offenders. The high RP offenders enrolled in a total of 6,496 programs, with an average of 1.66 programs (*SD*=0.93) per offender, and fully completed approximately 82% (*M*=1.35, *SD*=0.82) of these programs. Non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were found to most frequently participate in substance abuse and living skills programs.

Table 4

Percentages by Category of those Non-Aboriginal Male Offenders with a High RP that Participated in Institutional Correctional Programs

Institutional Correctional Program	Enrolled (%) (*n*=3,902)	Completed (%) (*n*=3,902)
Substance abuse	26	93
Living skills	24	88
Sex offender	8	89
Family violence	5	87
Violence prevention	<1	89
Other	1	89

Note. Total percentage will be greater than 100% as offenders could participate in multiple programs. Programs were included in the 'other' category if their enrolment was less than 1% of the group. Completed (%) reflects the percentage of those enrolled who completed the program.

The high rate of participation in substance abuse and living skills programming for non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP is consistent with the high percentage of offenders identified with 'considerable need' in these areas. For example, 30% of offenders with a high RP were identified as having considerable need in the area of substance abuse. Likewise, 36% of offenders with a high RP were identified with considerable need in the area of personal/emotional orientation, which is partly addressed in the living skills program. See Table 4-A for the percentage of high RP offenders with considerable difficulty in the other need domains.

Table 4-A

Percentage of Non-Aboriginal Male Offenders with a High RP with Considerable Difficulty in Each of the Need Domains

Need Domain	Considerable Difficulty (%)
Substance Abuse	30
Personal / Emotional Orientation	36
Associates and Social Interaction	17
Marital / Family	8
Attitude	15
Employment	4
Community Functioning	2

Overall, it was found that offenders with a high RP completed significantly more programs than did offenders with a low RP. However, there were no significant differences

between RP levels on the number of programs started. A multivariate analysis of covariance (MANCOVA) found significant differences in the mean number of programs started and completed between the three RP levels when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' $\lambda = 0.98$, $F(4, 18,414) = 42.04$, $p<.001$), with univariate between-subjects tests illustrating that RP level was significantly related to the number of programs completed ($F(2, 9,208) = 28.94$, $p<.001$). Results of pair-wise comparisons are presented in Table 5.

Table 5

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Measures of Institutional Correctional Program Participation: Non-Aboriginal Males

Institutional Correctional Programs	RP Level Means			
	High (n=3,745)	Medium (n=2,794)	Low (n=2,673)	Overall (N=9,212)
Number of Programs Started	1.66	1.79	1.80	1.74
Number of Programs Completed	1.36	1.38	1.27	1.34
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Number of Programs Started	-0.04	-0.03	0.01	
Number of Programs Completed	0.04	0.16***	0.13***	

Note. ***$p<.001$. Mean differences are based on estimated marginal means evaluated at the covariate rather than the RP level mean. Only those cases with information available for 'amount of time served in the institution' were included in the MANCOVA; those without information were excluded from the analyses.

Education programs

Almost two thirds (62%, n=4,707) of the high RP non-Aboriginal male group participated in institutional education programs, and of those 46% (n=2,189) completed their programs. These offenders spent an average of 262 days in education programs (SD=274). An analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) found that offenders with a high RP and offenders with a medium RP were enrolled in institutional educational programs for significantly more days than offenders with a low RP when controlling for the amount of time served in the institution ($F(2, 10,021) = 14.06$, $p<.001$; Mean difference = 31, $p<.001$ and Mean difference = 19, $p<.05$, respectively).

Days spent in institutional educational programs may be a function of the offender's motivation level (the degree of commitment to their correctional plan). Almost one third (31%) of offenders with a high RP were rated as having a high motivation level compared to 14% of

offenders with a medium RP and only 6% of offenders with a low RP. Offenders with a high RP may be more motivated to enrol and spend time in these programs.

Institutional employment

Eighty percent (*n*=6,039) of the high RP non-Aboriginal male group participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN) and 35% (*n*=2,660) participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration compared to 88% of the medium (*n*=3,971) and low (*n*=4,157) RP groups that participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN), and 44% (*n*=2,014) of the medium and 38% (*n*=1,790) of the low RP groups that participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration. The high RP non-Aboriginal male offenders spent an average of 449 days in institutional employment (*SD*=432) and 297 days in CORCAN employment (*SD*=418), and participated in 2.97 employment placements (*SD*=2.22) and 1.91 CORCAN placements (*SD*=1.48) during their time in the institution. An ANCOVA found that offenders with a high RP were employed for significantly fewer days than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP when controlling for the amount of time served in the institution ($F(2, 13,613) = 88.83$, $p<.001$; Mean difference = -140, $p<.001$ and Mean difference = -114, $p<.001$, respectively).

Days spent in institutional and CORCAN employment may be a function of the need for employment training based on the offender's previous work record. The medium and low RP groups had a higher percentage of offenders with various periods of unemployment or unstable job employment than the high RP group. Offenders with medium and low RPs had more need for, and were more likely to spend time in these placements.

Institutional Adjustment

Institutional incidents

Table 6 outlines the involvement of non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP in institutional incidents. Approximately one third of the group (39%, *n*=2,955) was involved in some way in an institutional incident while incarcerated, however this was a low percentage relative to the other RP groups (55%, *n*=2,509 for offenders with a medium RP and 75%, *n*=3,557 for offenders with a low RP). The mean level of involvement in institutional incidents for non-Aboriginal male offenders was 3.38 incidents per person (*SD*=4.30). Aside from those

incidents classified in OMS as being 'other', offenders with a high RP were most often the instigators/associates in disciplinary problem incidents and possession of contraband incidents, and were most often the victims of assault incidents.

Table 6

Percentages by Category of those Non-Aboriginal Male Offenders with a High RP that were Involved in Institutional Incidents

Incident Type	Role in Incident (%) (n=2,955)	
	Instigator / Associate	Victim
Assault	8	8
Inmate fight	9	1
Possession of contraband	25	0
Unauthorized item	16	0
Minor disturbance	5	<1
Disciplinary problem[a]	33	1
Intelligence[b]	21	2
Other	52	6

Note. Role categories are not exclusive. [a] An inmate's refusal to follow staff orders and/or disrespectful behaviour by inmates toward any person. [b] Anything found on an inmate's person or in a cell that may suggest a threat to security or a breach of institutional regulations.

Overall, offenders with a high RP were less likely than those classified as medium or low RP to be involved in institutional incidents. It was found that offenders with a high RP were significantly less likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to be the instigator/associate in an institutional incident, and significantly less likely than offenders with a low RP to be the victim in an institutional incident. A MANCOVA found significant differences in the mean number of incidents in which offenders were identified as playing the instigator/associate or victim role between the three RP levels when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' $\lambda = 0.96$, $F(4, 15,312) = 71.23$, $p<.001$), with univariate between-subjects tests illustrating that RP level was significantly related to mean number of instigator/associate incidents ($F(2, 7,657) = 138.03$, $p<.001$) and victim incidents ($F(2, 7,657) = 10.56$, $p<.001$). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons are presented in Table 7.

Table 7

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Measures of Role in Institutional Incidents: Non-Aboriginal Males

Role in Institutional Incident	RP Level Means			
	High (n=2,750)	Medium (n=2,170)	Low (n=2,741)	Overall (N=7,661)
Instigator/Associate	2.95	4.34	6.07	4.46
Victim	0.18	0.23	0.27	0.23
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Instigator/Associate	-0.94***	-2.55***	-1.61***	
Victim	-0.03	-0.07***	-0.04*	

Note. *p<.05, ***p<.001. Mean differences are based on estimated marginal means evaluated at the covariate rather than the RP level mean. Only those cases with information available for 'amount of time served in the institution' were included in the MANCOVA; those without information were excluded from the analyses.

Changes in security level[12]

The left-hand column of Table 8 outlines the percentage of offenders with a high RP at each security level rating at admission and upon release. Interestingly, although a larger percentage of the high RP group was classified as minimum security at release, the percentage of offenders with a high RP in a maximum security classification increased by almost 2 percentage points.

Overall, offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to be admitted and released at minimum security, and significantly less likely to be admitted and released at medium and maximum security. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels in offender security level classification at admission (χ^2(4, N=16,500) = 5,006.44, p<.001) and at release (χ^2(4, N=16,500) = 3,540.98, p<.001). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 8.

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[12] Offender security level was available for 98% (n=7,398) of the high RP non-Aboriginal male offender group.

Table 8

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Offender Security Level at Admission and Release: Non-Aboriginal Males

	RP Level (%)			
	High	Medium	Low	Overall
Admission Security Level	(*n*=7,398)	(*n*=4,442)	(*n*=4,660)	(*N*=16,500)
Minimum	53	19	6	30
Medium	47	78	70	62
Maximum	<1	3	24	8
Release Security Level				
Minimum	61	29	12	39
Medium	37	63	68	53
Maximum	2	8	19	9
	Z scores			
Admission Security Level	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Minimum	36.42***	52.43***	18.56***	
Medium	-33.62***	-25.09***	3.85***	
Maximum	-10.59***	-42.43***	-29.04***	
Release Security Level				
Minimum	33.14***	52.86***	20.48***	
Medium	-27.78***	-33.86***	-5.38***	
Maximum	-13.29***	-31.94***	16.62***	

Note. ***$p<.001$.

Admission security level is influenced by a variety of factors including an offender's risk profile and offence history, and as a result, almost half (47%) of non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were rated at medium security at admission and 6% of offenders with a low RP were rated at minimum security at admission. When compared to their high RP counterparts admitted at minimum security, the high RP group admitted at medium security had higher risk scores on the SIR scale, had a smaller percentage of offenders rated as low-risk and low-need, had more offenders who were admitted with a violent offence, and had significantly more previous offences. On the other hand, when compared to their low RP counterparts admitted at medium security, the low RP group admitted at minimum security had a greater percentage of offenders rated as low-need and had fewer offenders who were admitted with a violent offence.

Escorted and unescorted temporary absences

The mean number of escorted (ETA) and unescorted (UTA) temporary absences in which non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP participated during their period of incarceration

was assessed. Overall, these offenders participated in an average of 4.92 ETAs (SD=21.54) and 0.45 UTAs (SD=3.78), with the most frequently participated in ETA being the 15-day personal development absence (M=2.56, SD=10.62) and the most frequently participated in UTA being the family contact absence (M=0.29, SD=2.64). On average, non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP participated in their first ETA after serving 371 days of their sentence (26%, SD=288) compared to 523 days (31%, SD=407) and 585 days (33%, SD=484) for offenders with medium and low RPs, respectively, and participated in their first UTA after serving 527 days of their sentence (34%, SD=346), compared to 631 days (38%, SD=442) and 694 days (41%, SD=468) for offenders with medium and low RPs, respectively. Non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP participated in their first ETA and UTA at an earlier date than offenders with medium and low RPs.

UTA's are used to provide offenders with their first conditional release opportunity. Offenders who are released early in their sentence, prior to serving one third of their aggregate sentence length, would have little opportunity to participate in a UTA. Results from this study indicate that only 3% (n=89) of 3,514 high RP offenders released prior to serving one third of their sentence participated in a UTA. UTA's are not an option, and may not be needed for offenders who are released early. On the other hand, offenders released after serving one third of their sentence are more likely to benefit from a UTA, and within the high RP group 7% (n=262) of 3,734 offenders who were released after serving one third of their sentence participated in a UTA. Additionally, for those non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP who served less than one third of their sentence prior to release, they participated in their first UTA after serving 21% of their sentence, while those who served more than one third of their sentence prior to release participated in their first UTA after serving 38% of their sentence.

Overall, it was found that offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to participate in both an ETA and a UTA. A MANCOVA found significant differences in the mean number of total ETAs and total UTAs between the three RP levels when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' $\lambda = 0.99$, $F(4, 30{,}236) = 56.68$, $p<.001$), with univariate between-subjects tests illustrating that RP level was significantly related to mean ETAs ($F(2, 15{,}119) = 101.71$, $p<.001$), and mean UTAs ($F(2, 15{,}119) = 25.88$, $p<.001$). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons are presented in Table 9.

Table 9

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Measures of ETA and UTA Participation: Non-Aboriginal Males

| | RP Level Means | | | |
Type of Temporary Absence	High (n=7,252)	Medium (n=4,072)	Low (n=3,799)	Overall (N=15,123)
Number of ETAs	4.92	3.74	1.69	3.79
Number of UTAs	0.45	0.41	0.15	0.36
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Number of ETAs	2.64***	5.40***	2.76***	
Number of UTAs	0.18*	0.52***	0.33***	

Note. *p<.05, ***p<.001. Mean differences are based on estimated marginal means evaluated at the covariate rather than the RP level mean. Only those cases with information available for 'amount of time served in the institution' were included in the MANCOVA; those without information were excluded from the analyses. The relative representation of types of ETAs not related to risk (i.e., medical and compassionate) is 15% for offenders with a high RP; 23% for offenders with a medium RP; and 38% for offenders with a low RP. The relative representation of types of UTAs not related to risk (i.e., medical and compassionate) is 14% for offenders with a high RP and those with a medium RP; and 10% for offenders with a low RP.

Release Profiles and Outcomes

Release timeline of events

Of the 7,555 offenders in the high RP non-Aboriginal male group, 98% (n=7,379) had been released by the end of the follow-up period. The first release type typically experienced by these offenders was day parole (65%, n=4,793) or statutory release (30%, n=2,181), with only 5% of offenders being released first on full parole (n=335)[13], and less than 1% being released at the end of their sentence.

The type of first release is impacted by many factors including institutional behaviour, adherence to the correctional plan and level of risk, need and motivation. Recall that the decision for release on day parole and full parole (discretionary release) is made by an independent body, the Parole Board of Canada, and the offender must demonstrate to the Board that he or she is ready to be released and CSC must be confident that it can manage the offender safely in the community. Ideally, most offenders with a high RP would be released on day or full parole, but in fact almost one third (30%) of non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were released to

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[13] The small percentage of non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP released first on full parole can be explained by the correctional practice whereby most offenders are released on day parole first and then go on to be granted full parole; few offenders are released directly on full parole (Grant & Gillis, 1999). This explanation applies equally to the other three offender study groups.

community supervision at their statutory release date. When compared to their high RP counterparts released first on a discretionary release (day parole or full parole), the high RP group released on statutory release had higher risk indicated by their SIR score ratings, had a smaller percentage of offenders rated as low-risk and low-need, had more offenders who were admitted with a violent offence, had significantly more previous offences and institutional incidents, and had fewer offenders who were rated at minimum security at release.

Overall, non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to have day parole and full parole as their first release, and significantly less likely to have statutory release and warrant expiry as their first release. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels in first release type ($\chi^2(6, N=15,458) = 2,733.77, p<.001$). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 10.

Table 10

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on First Release Type: Non-Aboriginal Males

First Release Type	RP Level (%)			
	High (*n*=7,379)	Medium (*n*=4,244)	Low (*n*=4,065)	Overall (*N*=15,688)
Day Parole	65	41	19	47
Full Parole	5	2	<1	3
Statutory Release	30	54	75	48
Warrant Expiry	<1	3	5	3
	Z scores			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Day Parole	24.97***	46.89***	21.71***	
Full Parole	7.47***	11.23***	4.78***	
Statutory Release	-26.42***	-46.86***	-19.82***	
Warrant Expiry	-7.52***	-13.80***	-5.44***	

Note. ***$p<.001$

On average, offenders with a high RP served 40% of their sentence (*SD*=20) before their first release (day parole, full parole or statutory release).[14] For offenders granted day parole, they served an average of 29% of their sentence before their release (*SD*=13) and for offenders

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[14] For non-Aboriginal male offenders, as well as for the other three study groups, factors contributing to a conditional release decision are both the offender's decision whether to be considered for parole and the Parole Board of Canada's actual decision.

granted full parole, they served an average of 37% of their sentence before their release (*SD*=8).

Overall it was found that offenders with a high RP served a significantly shorter percentage of their sentence before their first release than did offenders with medium or low RPs. An ANOVA found significant differences in the mean percentage of sentence served prior to first release between the three RP levels ($F(2, 15,282) = 1,026.65$, $p<.001$). Results of pair-wise comparisons are presented in Table 11.

Table 11

Results of Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Percentage of Sentence Served Prior to First Release[15]: Non-Aboriginal Males

| | RP Level Means | | | |
	High (*n*=7,309)	Medium (*n*=4,126)	Low (*n*=3,850)	Overall (*N*=15,285)
Percentage of sentence served prior to first release	40	50	57	47
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Percentage of sentence served prior to first release	-9.53***	-16.36***	-6.83***	

Note. ***p<.001

Community program participation

Table 12 outlines the community programs in which high RP non-Aboriginal male offenders, who were released by the end of the follow-up period, participated. Collectively, 39% (*n*=2,831) of the 7,308 released offenders in this group participated in community programming. These offenders enrolled in a total of 4,637 programs, with an average of 1.64 programs (*SD*=1.08) per offender. Non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were found to most frequently participate in substance abuse and Counter-Point programs in the community.[16]

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[15] First release includes offenders released on day parole, full parole and statutory release before the end of the follow-up period.
[16] See Table 4-A for levels of considerable difficulty in each of the need domain areas.

Table 12

Percentages by Category of those Non-Aboriginal Male Offenders with a High RP that Participated in Community Correctional Programs

Correctional Program	% (*n*=2,831)
Substance abuse	22
Counter-Point[17]	13
Sex offender	5
Living skills	5
Family violence	2
Violence prevention	<1

Release outcome

Of the 7,309 offenders with a high RP who were released to the community on day parole, full parole, or statutory release, 2,437 (33%) were re-admitted to a federal institution by the end of the two-year follow-up period.[18] Of those, the majority (66%, *n*=1,564) had a revocation of their release without an offence. Few of these offenders were re-admitted with a new offence after their warrant expiry date (WED; 6%, *n*=136).

When compared to their high RP counterparts who were successful on their first release, the high RP group that failed had higher risk ratings on the SIR, had a smaller percentage of offenders rated as low-risk and low-need, had more offenders who were admitted with a violent offence, had significantly more current and previous offences and institutional incidents, and had significantly fewer ETAs and UTAs.

Overall, based on a two-year fixed follow-up period, offenders with a high RP (30%) were significantly less likely than offenders with a medium (57%) or a low (68%) RP to experience any revocation or new offence upon release and were more likely to be successful on their first release. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels and release outcome[19] (χ^2(2, *N*=15,123) = 1,715.54, *p*<.001). Both offenders with a high RP who received a discretionary release (day parole or full parole) and offenders with a high RP who received a statutory release as their first release type were less likely than their medium and low RP counterparts to fail on release. Results of pair-wise comparisons of

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[17] Counter-Point is a moderate intensity community-based correctional program. Its principal goal is to help participants change their pro-criminal values and attitudes and take more responsibility for their criminal actions.
[18] For all analyses regarding offender outcomes upon release, time of return to custody was defined as the first incident which resulted in the offender being returned to a federal institution.
[19] Categorized as a revocation/new offence or successful during a two-year fixed follow-up period.

independent percentages are presented in Table 13.

Table 13

Results of Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Failure on Release by First Release Type, based on a Two Year Fixed Follow-Up Period: Non-Aboriginal Males

Failure on Release by First Release Type	RP Level (%)		
	High (n=7,244)	Medium (n=4,055)	Low (n=3,784)
Discretionary Release	29	61	68
Statutory Release	31	54	68
Overall	30	57	68
	Z scores		
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low
Discretionary Release	-24.07***	-21.65***	-3.57***
Statutory Release	-15.31***	-25.94***	-10.20***
Overall	-28.68***	-38.68***	-9.95***

Note. ***p<.001. These analyses examined failure on release during a two-year fixed follow-up period after first release. Those who returned to custody after the follow-up period (n=527) and those with missing date information (n=1,165) and release type (n=40) were excluded from these analyses.

Further, when type of failure on release (revocation with offence and revocation without offence) was examined, non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP who were granted discretionary release or statutory release also had similar percentages of offenders with revocations with offence and revocations without offence. This suggests that for this group, release type does not appear to be associated with the type of failure on release.

A survival analysis using the Cox proportional hazards regression model was conducted to determine failure upon release and to estimate whether RP level was associated with the risk of failure (Figure 1 illustrates the survival curves for the three RP level groups). Offenders with a medium RP and offenders with a low RP were found to return to custody more quickly than did offenders with a high RP, with the average high RP offender failing after 11.57 months (*SD*=10.20), as compared to offenders with a medium RP (*M*=9.64, *SD*=9.06) and offenders with a low RP (*M*=8.35, *SD*=8.26). The difference in the rate of failure is demonstrated by the steeper slope of the survival curve for the medium and low RP offenders compared to the high RP group.

At one year after release, 22% of the high RP group experienced a failure on release, compared to 47% of the medium RP group and 61% of the low RP group. By the time the three groups had been on release for two years, these rates had grown to 30% of the high RP group,

51% of the medium RP group, and 68% of the low RP group.[20] After two years, the survival curves level off and become parallel.

Figure 1. Survival function: Non-Aboriginal male offenders
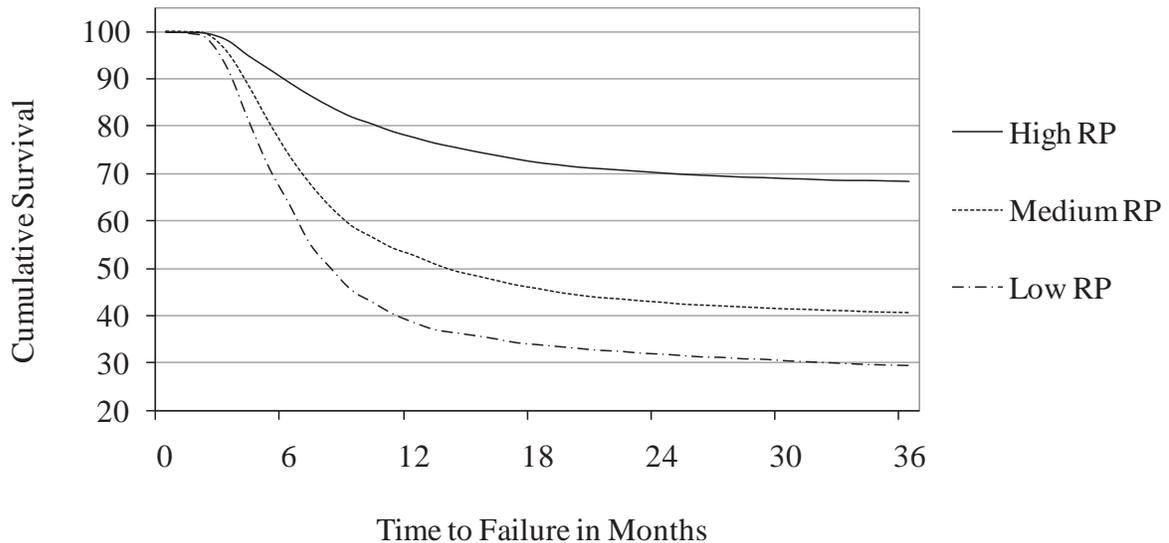
Table 14 presents the statistical results for the survival analysis. RP level was found to be significantly related to risk of return to custody after release. Specifically, belonging to the medium RP rather than the high RP group of offenders was found to increase the hazard of return to custody by 2.39, and belonging to the low RP rather than the high RP group of offenders was found to increase the hazard of return to custody by 3.37. In other words, taking time and RP level into account, offenders with a medium RP were 2.39 times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release, and offenders with a low RP were 3.37 times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release.

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[20] The discrepancy in percentages between the two-year outcome presented here and the two-year fixed outcome presented in Table 13 is due to the number of offenders included in each analysis. All non-Aboriginal male offenders released prior to the end of the follow-up period were included in the survival analysis while only those offenders who had been on release for at least two years were included in the two-year fixed outcome analysis.

Table 14

Cox Regression Hazard Ratios for RP Factors Related to Failure upon Release: Non-Aboriginal Males

Variable	B	Wald	Exp(B)	95% Confidence Interval
RP Level		1,938.37		
RP Level (1)	0.87	920.67	2.39***	2.26 – 2.53
RP Level (2)	1.22	1,856.44	3.37***	3.19 – 3.56

Note. ***$p < .001$. RP Level (1) = medium RP, and RP Level (2) = low RP. The high RP group was treated as the reference category.

Summary of Results

Almost half (45%) of the 16,815 offenders included in the non-Aboriginal male sample were assessed as having a high reintegration potential. This group accounted for at least 40% of all admissions in the Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario and Prairie regions, and accounted for at least 60% of all but two ethnocultural groups (White group, 42%; Black group, 50%). Non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were significantly older at the time of admission and were found to be serving significantly shorter sentences (1,251 days) than offenders in the other RP groups. While they were most commonly admitted with violent offences (54%), this is a lower percentage relative to the other RP groups (61% for medium RP offenders and 65% for low RP offenders), but they were significantly more likely than offenders in the other RP groups to be admitted with drug offences.

Collectively, half (52%) of the non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP participated in institutional correctional programming, most frequently participating in substance abuse programs, which is consistent with the high level of need in this area (52% of offenders had some/considerable difficulty), and were significantly more likely to complete programs than offenders with a low RP. More than half of the sample (62%) participated in educational programs, 80% participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN), and 28% participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration, rates higher than for the other two RP groups.

Approximately one third of the offenders in the high RP group (39%) were involved in some way in an institutional incident while incarcerated, and were significantly less likely than offenders in the other RP groups to be the instigator/associate or victim of an institutional incident. They were significantly more likely than offenders in the other RP groups to be admitted and released at minimum security, and to participate in both an ETA and a UTA.

Further, offenders in the high RP group also experienced their first ETA and their first UTA at an earlier date (after serving 371 days or 26% and 527 days or 34% of their sentences, respectively) than offenders with medium and low RPs. Of the 7,555 offenders in the high RP non-Aboriginal male group, 98% had been released by the end of the follow-up period. They were significantly more likely than offenders in the other RP groups to have day parole and full parole as their first release (70% compared to 43% for medium RP offenders and 20% for low RP offenders). On average, this group served 40% of their sentence before their first release, a significantly shorter percentage than offenders in the other RP groups. Collectively, 39% of those who were released by the end of the follow-up period participated in community programming, most frequently participating in substance abuse and Counter-Point programs, and the majority of offenders (79%) were unemployed during their release.

Of the members of the high RP group released, 33% were re-admitted to a federal institution by the end of the two-year follow-up period, the majority of whom (66%) had their release revoked without an offence. They were significantly less likely than offenders in the other RP groups to experience any revocation or new offence after release, and were more likely to be successful on their first release. Offenders in the other RP groups were found to return to custody more quickly than the high RP group, with the average high RP offender failing after eleven and a half months. By the time the three groups had been on release for two years, the rates were 30% for the high RP group, 51% for the medium RP group, and 68% for the low RP group. Overall, offenders with a medium RP were two times more likely and offenders with a low RP were three times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release.

Results: Aboriginal Males

Admission Information

In total, 3,731 Aboriginal males admitted to the Correctional Service of Canada on a new sentence over a period of five years (2002-2006) were included in the sample. Less than one fifth (16%, *n*=613) were assessed as having a high reintegration potential (RP). Just over one half (58%, *n*=2,165) were assessed as having a low RP, and the remainder were assessed as having a medium RP (25%, *n*=953).

Demographic information

The following presents a demographic summary of Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP. As illustrated in Table 15, in four of the five regions (Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, and Pacific), Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP accounted for less than 20% of all admissions. For this group of offenders, admissions were lowest in the Ontario region (10%, *n*=49) and highest in the Atlantic region (27%, *n*=44).

Table 15

RP Level Percentages within Regional Admissions: Aboriginal Males

RP Level	Regional Admissions (%)					
	Atlantic (*n*=165)	Quebec (*n*=228)	Ontario (*n*=481)	Prairies (*n*=2,366)	Pacific (*n*=491)	Overall (*N*=3,731)
High	27	10	10	18	15	16
Medium	28	33	23	25	24	26
Low	45	56	67	57	62	58

Table 16 outlines the RP distributions across the three groups that make up the Aboriginal status group. Only 10% *(n*=156) of Inuit offenders were identified as having a high RP, while 15% (*n*=388) of First Nations offenders and 22% (*n*=989) of Métis offenders were identified as having a high RP.

Table 16

RP Level Percentages within Aboriginal Status: Aboriginal Males

	Aboriginal Status (%)			
RP Level	First Nations (n=2,586)	Métis (n=989)	Inuit (n=156)	Overall (N=3,731)
High	15	22	10	16
Medium	25	28	28	25
Low	61	51	63	58

The average age of Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP at the time of admission was 31 years (SD=11). For Aboriginal male offenders with medium and low RPs, the average ages at time of admission were 30 years (SD=10) and 31 years (SD=9), respectively. A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) found significant differences in mean age between the three RP levels (F(2, 3,728) = 3.88, p<.05). Results of pair-wise comparisons found that offenders with a low RP were significantly older at admission than offenders with a medium RP (Mean difference = -0.95, p < .05). No other significant differences were found.

Sentence length[21]

Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were serving average aggregate sentence lengths of 1,131 days (3.11 years, SD=560), which were shorter than offenders with a medium RP who were averaging 1,241 days (3.41 years, SD=683) and offenders with a low RP who were averaging 1,388 days (3.81 years, SD=841). The minimum aggregate sentence length for the high RP group was 88 days[22] and the maximum length was 6,990 days (19.19 years). An ANOVA found significant differences in the mean sentence length between the three RP levels (F(2, 3,581) = 31.50, p<.001). Results of pair-wise comparisons found that offenders with a high RP had significantly shorter aggregate sentence lengths than both offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP (Mean difference = -110, p<.01; Mean difference = -257, p<.001, respectively).

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[21]There were 4 offenders with a medium RP and 143 offenders with a low RP missing aggregate sentence data. These offenders had either indeterminate (n=33) or life sentences (n=114).
[22] See footnote 4 in Non-Aboriginal Males section for explanation.

Admission offence[23]

Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP had an average of 4.90 offences (SD=5.41) at admission. The lowest number of current offences was one and the highest number of current offences was 51. Aside from those offences classified as 'other non-violent offences', offenders with a high RP were most often admitted with violent offences (55%, n=336), however this was a low percentage relative to the other RP groups (70%, n=667 for medium RP offenders and 80%, n=1,727 for low RP offenders). Only 24% (n=147) of the high RP group were admitted with drug offences, however this was a high percentage relative to the other RP groups (14%, n=136 for medium RP offenders and 7%, n=186 for low RP offenders).

Overall, Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely to be admitted with drug offences (χ^2(2, N=3,730) = 106.33, p<.001), significantly less likely than offenders with medium and low RPs to be admitted with violent offences (χ^2(2, N=3,730) = 158.01, p<.001), and significantly less likely than offenders with a medium RP to be admitted with property offences (χ^2(2, N=3,730) = 16.58, p<.001). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 17.

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[23] Admission offence data was available for all Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP.

Table 17

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Admission Offence Type: Aboriginal Males

Admission Offence Type	RP Level (%)			
	High (*n*=613)	Medium (*n*=952)	Low (*n*=2,156)	Overall (*N*=3,730)
Violent Offences	55	70	80	73
Drug Offences	24	14	9	13
Property Offences	31	38	30	32
Other Non-Violent Offences	58	62	54	57
	Z scores			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Violent Offences	-6.14***	-12.48***	-5.91***	
Drug Offences	4.86***	10.35***	4.81***	
Property Offences	-2.61**	0.41	4.01***	
Other Non-Violent Offences	-1.43	1.64	3.82***	

Note. **$p<.01$, ***$p<.001$. Violent offences include homicide, robbery, sex, weapon, assault and kidnapping/hostage taking/forcible confinement offences as well as other violent offences (arson, utter threats). Drug offences include import/export, production, trafficking and possession offences. Property offences include theft and break & enter offences. Other non-violent offences include escape/UAL and all other non-violent offences.

Institutional Program Participation

Correctional programs

Table 18 outlines the institutional correctional programs in which Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP participated. Collectively, 60% (*n*=370) of the 613 high RP offenders participated in institutional correctional programming compared to 74% (*n*=702) of the 953 medium RP offenders and 75% (*n*=1,623) of the 2,165 low RP offenders. The high RP offenders enrolled in a total of 622 programs, with an average of 1.68 programs (*SD*=0.88) per offender, and fully completed approximately 81% (*M*=1.37, *SD*=0.84) of these programs. Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were found to most frequently participate in substance abuse and living skills programs.

Table 18

Percentages by Category of those Aboriginal Male Offenders with a High RP that Participated in Institutional Correctional Programs

Institutional Correctional Program	Enrolled (%) (*n*=370)	Completed (%) (*n*=370)
Substance abuse	35	90
Living skills	24	83
Sex offender	9	87
Violence prevention	6	100
Family violence	5	87
Other	<1	100

Note. Total percentage will be greater than 100% as offenders could participate in multiple programs. Programs were included in the 'other' category if there enrolment was less than 1% of the group. Completed (%) reflects the percentage of those enrolled who completed the program.

The high rate of participation in substance abuse and living skills programming for Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP is consistent with the high percentage of offenders identified with 'considerable need' in these areas. For example, 48% of offenders with a high RP were identified as having considerable need in the area of substance abuse. Likewise, 32% of offenders with a high RP were identified with considerable need in the area of personal/emotional orientation, which is partly addressed in the living skills program. See Table 18-A for the percentage of high RP offenders with considerable difficulty in the other need domains.

Table 18-A

Percentage of Aboriginal Male Offenders with a High RP with Considerable Difficulty in Each of the Need Domains

Need Domain	Considerable Difficulty (%)
Substance Abuse	48
Personal / Emotional Orientation	32
Associates and Social Interaction	14
Marital / Family	7
Attitude	8
Employment	9
Community Functioning	2

Overall, it was found that when number of programs started and completed were considered together there were significant differences between RP levels. However, when tested

at the univariate level no significant between-group differences were observed. A multivariate analysis of covariance (MANCOVA) found significant differences in the mean number of programs started and completed between the three RP levels when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' $\lambda = 0.99$, $F(4, 4{,}644) = 3.62$, $p<.01$). However, the univariate between-subjects tests illustrated that no significant pair-wise differences were found between the RP levels and number of programs started or completed.

Table 19

RP Level Means by Measures of Institutional Correctional Program Participation: Aboriginal Males

Institutional Correctional Programs	RP Level Means			
	High (*n*=366)	Medium (*n*=667)	Low (*n*=1,294)	Overall (*N*=2,327)
Number of Programs Started	1.67	1.74	1.94	1.84
Number of Programs Completed	1.36	1.35	1.44	1.40

Note. Mean differences are based on estimated marginal means evaluated at the covariate rather than the RP level mean. Only those cases with information available for 'amount of time served in the institution' were included in the MANCOVA; those without information were excluded from the analyses.

Education programs

Almost two thirds (62%, *n*=378) of the high RP Aboriginal male group participated in institutional education programs, and of those 51% (*n*=194) completed their programs. These offenders spent an average of 232 days in education programs (*SD*=225). An analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) found no significant differences between RP levels in mean number of days enrolled in educational programs when controlling for the amount of time served in the institution ($F(2, 2{,}228) = 0.81$, $p=.45$).

The lack of significant mean differences may be explained in part by the high need for education programs for all RP groups. There were a high percentage of offenders with high, medium, and low RPs who had not attained the designated education levels (grade 8, grade 10, and high school diploma). Offenders from all three groups had a high need for, and were likely to spend time in these programs.

Institutional employment

The majority (80%, *n*=493) of the high RP Aboriginal male group participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN) and 38% (*n*=235) participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration compared to 87% of the medium (*n*=826) and low (*n*=1,876) RP groups that participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN), and 35% (*n*=332) of the medium and 32% (*n*=698) of the low RP groups that participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration. The high RP Aboriginal male offenders spent an average of 464 days in institutional employment (*SD*=435) and 243 days in CORCAN employment (*SD*=261) and participated in 2.94 employment placements (*SD*=2.28) and 1.69 CORCAN placements (*SD*=1.09) during their time in the institution. An ANCOVA found no significant differences between RP levels in mean number of days employed when controlling for the amount of time served in the institution ($F(2, 2,887) = 0.39$, $p=.68$).

The lack of significant mean differences may be explained in part by the high need for employment training for all RP groups. There were a high percentage of offenders with high, medium, and low RPs with various periods of unemployment or unstable job employment. Offenders from all three groups had a high need for, and were likely to spend time in these placements.

Institutional Adjustment

Institutional incidents

Table 20 outlines the involvement of Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP in institutional incidents. Approximately one third of the group (38%, *n*=233) was involved in some way in an institutional incident while incarcerated, however this was a low percentage relative to the other RP groups (51%, *n*=487 for offenders with a medium RP and 68%, *n*=1,469 for offenders with a low RP). The mean level of involvement in institutional incidents for Aboriginal male offenders was 2.79 incidents per person (*SD*=2.95). Aside from those incidents classified in OMS as being 'other', offenders with a high RP were most often the instigators/associates in possession of contraband incidents and disciplinary problem incidents, and were most often the victims of assault incidents.

Table 20

Percentages by Category of those Aboriginal Male Offenders with a High RP that were Involved in Institutional Incidents

Incident Type	Role in Incident (%) (n=233)	
	Instigator / Associate	Victim
Assault	11	11
Inmate fight	9	<1
Possession of contraband	34	0
Unauthorized item	12	0
Minor disturbance	5	0
Disciplinary problem[a]	22	<1
Intelligence[b]	14	0
Other	52	6

Note. Role categories are not exclusive. [a] An inmate's refusal to follow staff orders and/or disrespectful behaviour by inmates toward any person. [b] Anything found on an inmate's person or in a cell that may suggest a threat to security or a breach of institutional regulations.

Overall, offenders with a high RP were less likely than those classified as medium or low RP to be involved in institutional incidents. It was found that offenders with a high RP were significantly less likely than offenders with a low RP to be the instigator/associate in an institutional incident. A MANCOVA found significant differences in the mean number of incidents in which offenders were identified as playing the instigator/associate or victim role when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' $\lambda = 0.99$, $F(4, 3,472) = 3.47$, $p<.01$), with univariate between-subjects tests illustrating that RP level was significantly related to mean number of instigator/associate incidents ($F(2, 1,737) = 6.72$, $p=.001$) but not victim incidents ($F(2, 1,737) = 0.41$, $p=.67$). Results of pair-wise comparisons for significant effects are presented in Table 21.

Table 21

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Measures of Role in Institutional Incidents: Aboriginal Males

Role in Institutional Incident	RP Level Means			
	High (*n*=229)	Medium (*n*=451)	Low (*n*=1,061)	Overall (*N*=1,741)
Instigator/Associate	2.44	3.40	4.49	3.94
Victim	0.19	0.23	0.26	0.25
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Instigator/Associate	-0.49	-1.19*	-0.71	
Victim	-	-	-	

Note. *p<.05. Mean differences are based on estimated marginal means evaluated at the covariate rather than the RP level mean. Only those cases with information available for 'amount of time served in the institution' were included in the MANCOVA; those without information were excluded from the analyses.

Changes in security level[24]

The left-hand column of Table 22 outlines the percentage of offenders with a high RP at each security level rating at admission and upon release. Interestingly, although a larger percentage of the high RP group was classified as minimum security at release, the percentage of offenders with a high RP in a maximum security classification increased by almost 3 percentage points.

Overall, offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to be admitted and released at minimum security, and significantly less likely to be admitted and released at medium security. Furthermore, offenders with a high RP were significantly less likely than offenders with a low RP to be admitted, and significantly less likely than those with a medium RP and those with a low RP to be released at maximum security. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels in offender security level classification at admission ($\chi^2(4, N=3,693) = 799.95, p<.001$) and at release ($\chi^2(4, N=3,693) = 492.54, p<.001$). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 22.

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[24] Offender security level was available for 99% (*n*=605) of the high RP Aboriginal male offender group.

Table 22

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Offender Security Level at Admission and Release: Aboriginal Males

	RP Level (%)			
	High	Medium	Low	Overall
Admission Security Level	(*n*=605)	(*n*=936)	(*n*=2,152)	(*N*=3,693)
Minimum	45	18	5	15
Medium	54	80	78	74
Maximum	<1	2	18	11
Release Security Level				
Minimum	62	36	18	30
Medium	35	57	66	59
Maximum	3	7	16	12
	Z scores			
Admission Security Level	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Minimum	11.38***	25.39***	11.94***	
Medium	-10.72***	-10.79***	2.03	
Maximum	-2.33	-11.14***	-12.59***	
Release Security Level				
Minimum	10.05***	21.42***	10.83***	
Medium	-8.49***	-13.82***	-4.84***	
Maximum	-3.36***	-8.26***	-6.64***	

Note. ***$p<.001$.

Admission security level is influenced by a variety of factors including an offender's risk profile and offence history, and as a result, more than half (54%) of Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were rated at medium security at admission and 5% of offenders with a low RP were rated at minimum security at admission. When compared to their high RP counterparts admitted at minimum security, the high RP group admitted at medium security had a smaller percentage of offenders rated as low-risk and low-need, had more offenders who were admitted with a violent offence, and had significantly more previous offences. One the other hand, when compared to their low RP counterparts admitted at medium security, the low RP group admitted at minimum security had fewer offenders who were admitted with a violent offence and had significantly more previous offences.

Escorted and unescorted temporary absences

The mean number of escorted (ETA) and unescorted (UTA) temporary absences in which Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP participated during their period of incarceration was

assessed. Overall, these offenders participated in an average of 9.82 ETAs (SD=24.12) and 0.96 UTAs (SD=6.57), with the most frequently participated in ETA being the 15-day personal development absence (M=8.07, SD=19.80) and the most frequently participated in UTA being the 60-day personal development absence (M=0.45, SD=4.07). On average, Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP participated in their first ETA after serving 253 days of their sentence (23%, SD=169), compared to 360 days (29%, SD=248) and 501 days (31%, SD=412) for offenders with medium and low RPs, respectively and participated in their first UTA after serving 418 days of their sentence (35%, SD=218), compared to 530 days (39%, SD=354) and 801 days (43%, SD=644) for offenders with medium and low RPs, respectively. Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP participated in their first ETA and UTA at an earlier date than offenders with medium and low RPs.

UTA's are used to provide offenders with their first conditional release opportunity. Offenders who are released early in their sentence, prior to serving one third of their aggregate sentence length, would have little opportunity to participate in a UTA. Results from this study indicate that only 1% (n=4) of 267 high RP offenders released prior to serving one third of their sentence participated in a UTA. UTA's are not an option, and may not be needed for offenders who are released early. On the other hand, offenders released after serving one third of their sentence are more likely to benefit from a UTA, and within the high RP group 9% (n=31) of 338 offenders who were released after serving one third of their sentence participated in a UTA. Additionally, for those Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP who served less than one third of their sentence prior to release, they participated in their first UTA after serving 21% of their sentence, while those who served more than one third of their sentence prior to release participated in their first UTA after serving 38% of their sentence.

Overall, it was found that offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to participate in both an ETA and a UTA. A MANCOVA found significant differences in the mean number of total ETAs and total UTAs between the three RP levels when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' λ = 0.98, F(4, 6,366) = 15.06, p<.001), with univariate between-subjects tests illustrating that RP level was significantly related to mean ETAs (F(2, 3,184) = 26.79, p<.001), and mean UTAs (F(2, 3,184) = 10.69, p<.001). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons are presented in Table 23.

Table 23

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Measures of ETA and UTA Participation: Aboriginal Males

Type of Temporary Absence	RP Level Means			
	High (n=605)	Medium (n=905)	Low (n=1,678)	Overall (N=3,188)
Number of ETAs	9.82	7.60	5.50	6.92
Number of UTAs	0.96	0.49	0.21	0.43
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Number of ETAs	3.77**	7.21***	3.44***	
Number of UTAs	0.55*	0.90***	0.35	

Note. *p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001. Mean differences are based on estimated marginal means evaluated at the covariate rather than the RP level mean. Only those cases with information available for 'amount of time served in the institution' were included in the MANCOVA; those without information were excluded from the analyses. The relative representation of types of ETAs not related to risk (i.e., medical and compassionate) is 18% for offenders with a high RP; 21% for offenders with a medium RP; and 36% for offenders with a low RP. The relative representation of types of UTAs not related to risk (i.e., medical and compassionate) is 5% for offenders with a high RP and those with a low RP; and 10% for offenders with a medium RP.

Release Profiles and Outcomes

Release timeline of events

Of the 613 offenders in the high RP Aboriginal male group, 99% (n=608) had been released by the end of the follow-up period. The first release type typically experienced by these offenders was day parole (63%, n=385) or statutory release (31%, n=190), with only 5% of offenders being released first on full parole (n=32), and only one offender was released first based on a warrant of expiry.

The type of first release is impacted by many factors including institutional behaviour, adherence to the correctional plan and level of risk, need and motivation. Recall that the decision for release on day parole and full parole (discretionary release) is made by an independent body, the Parole Board of Canada, and the offender must demonstrate to the Board that he or she is ready to be released and CSC must be confident that it can manage the offender safely in the community. Ideally, most offenders with a high RP would be released on day or full parole, but in fact almost one third (31%) of Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were released to community supervision at their statutory release date. When compared to their high RP counterparts released first on a discretionary release (day parole or full parole), the high RP group released on statutory release had a smaller percentage of offenders rated as low-risk and

low-need, had more offenders who were admitted with a violent offence, had significantly more previous offences and institutional incidents, and had fewer offenders who were rated at minimum security at release.

Overall, Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to have day and full parole as their first release, and significantly less likely to have statutory release and warrant expiry as their first release. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels in first release type ($\chi^2(6, N=3,367) = 609.53, p<.001$). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 24.

Table 24

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on First Release Type: Aboriginal Males

First Release Type	RP Level (%)			
	High (*n*=608)	Medium (*n*=924)	Low (*n*=1,899)	Overall (*N*=3,431)
Day Parole	63	41	18	32
Full Parole	5	2	<1	2
Statutory Release	31	57	71	60
Warrant Expiry	<1	1	10	6
	Z scores			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Day Parole	8.65***	21.25***	12.83***	
Full Parole	4.02***	6.96***	1.97*	
Statutory Release	-9.71***	-17.71***	-7.86***	
Warrant Expiry	-2.09***	-7.76***	-8.36***	

Note. *p<.05, ***p<.001

On average, offenders with a high RP served 41% of their sentence (*SD*=19) before their first release (day parole, full parole or statutory release). For offenders granted day parole, they served an average of 30% of their sentence before their release (*SD*=13) and for offenders granted full parole, they served an average of 39% of their sentence before their release (*SD*=11).

Overall, it was found that offenders with a high RP served a significantly shorter percentage of their sentence before their first release than did offenders with medium or low RPs. An ANOVA found significant differences in the mean percentage of sentence served prior to first release between the three RP levels ($F(2, 3,217) = 260.43, p<.001$). Results of pair-wise comparisons are presented in Table 25.

Table 25

Results of Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Percentage of Sentence Served Prior to First Release[25]: Aboriginal Males

| | RP Level Means | | | |
	High (*n*=607)	Medium (*n*=913)	Low (*n*=1,700)	Overall (*N*=3,220)
Percentage of sentence served prior to first release	41	51	68	53
	Mean Differences		
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low
Percentage of sentence served prior to first release	-9.80***	-17.03***	-7.23***

Note. ***p<.001

Community program participation

Table 26 outlines the community programs in which high RP Aboriginal male offenders, who were released by the end of the follow-up period, participated. Collectively, 41% (*n*=250) of the 606 released offenders in this group participated in community programming. These offenders enrolled in a total of 443 programs, with an average of 1.77 programs (*SD*=1.10) per offender. Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were found to most frequently participate in substance abuse and Counter-Point programs in the community.[26]

Table 26

Percentages by Category of those Aboriginal Male Offenders with a High RP that Participated in Community Correctional Programs

Correctional Program	% (*n*=250)
Substance abuse	24
Counter-Point	12
Sex offender	7
Living skills	5
Violence prevention	2
Family violence	1

[25] First release includes offenders released on day parole, full parole or statutory release before the end of the follow-up period.
[26] See Table 18-A for levels of considerable difficulty in each of the need domain areas.

Release outcome

Of the 607 offenders with a high RP who were released to the community on day parole, full parole, or statutory release, 302 (50%) were re-admitted to a federal institution by the end of the two-year follow-up period. Of those, the majority (60%, *n*=180) had a revocation of their release without an offence. Few of these offenders were re-admitted with a new offence after their warrant expiry date (WED; 5%, *n*=15).

When compared to their high RP counterparts who were successful on their first release, the high RP group that failed had a smaller percentage of offenders rated as low-risk and low-need, had significantly more current and previous offences and institutional incidents, and had significantly fewer ETAs.

Overall, based on two-year fixed follow-up period, offenders with a high RP (46%) were significantly less likely than offenders with a medium (62%) or a low (68%) RP to experience any revocation or new offence upon release, and were more likely to be successful on their first release. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels and release outcome (χ^2(2, *N*=3,188) = 91.09, *p*<.001). Both offenders with a high RP who received a discretionary release (day parole or full parole) and offenders with a high RP who received a statutory release as their first release type were less likely than their medium and low RP counterparts to fail on release. Results of pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 27.

Table 27

Results of Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Failure on First Release by First Release Type, based on a Two-Year Fixed Follow-Up Period: Aboriginal Males

Failure on Release by First Release Type	RP Level (%)		
	High (*n*=605)	Medium (*n*=905)	Low (*n*=1,669)
Discretionary Release	45	60	61
Statutory Release	51	63	70
Overall	46	62	68
	Z scores		
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low
Discretionary Release	-4.34***	-4.52***	-.030
Statutory Release	-2.98**	-5.46***	-3.07**
Overall	-5.83***	-9.55***	-3.43***

Note. **p<.01, ***p<.001. These analyses examined failure on release during a two-year fixed follow-up period after first release. Those who returned to custody after the follow-up period (*n*=100) and those with missing date information (*n*=543) were excluded from these analyses.

Further, when type of failure on release (revocation with offence and revocation without offence) was examined, Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP who were granted discretionary released had a higher percentage of revocations without offence and a lower percentage of offenders with a revocation with offence than offenders who were released on statutory release. This suggests that for this group, release type appears to be associated with the type of failure on release.

A survival analysis using the Cox proportional hazards regression model was conducted to determine failure upon release and to estimate whether RP level was associated with the risk of failure (Figure 2 illustrates the survival curves for the three RP level groups). Offenders with a medium RP and offenders with a low RP were found to return to custody more quickly than did offenders with a high RP, with the average high RP offender failing after 10.48 months (SD=8.70), as compared to offenders with a medium RP (M=9.21, SD=8.52) and offenders with a low RP (M=8.01, SD=7.78). The difference in the rate of failure is demonstrated by the steeper slope of the survival curve for the medium and low RP offenders compared to the high RP group.

At one year after release, 36% of the high RP group experienced a failure on release, compared to 52% of the medium RP group and 62% of the low RP group. By the time the three groups had been on release for two years, these rates had grown to 47% of the high RP group, 59% of the medium RP group, and 68% of the low RP group.[27] After two years, the survival curves for all three RP groups level off and become parallel.

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[27] The discrepancy in percentages between the two-year outcome presented here and the two-year fixed outcome presented in Table 27 is due to the number of offenders included in each analysis. All Aboriginal male offenders released prior to the end of the follow-up period were included in the survival analysis while only those offenders who had been on release for at least two years were included in the two-year fixed outcome analysis.

Figure 2. Survival function: Aboriginal male offenders
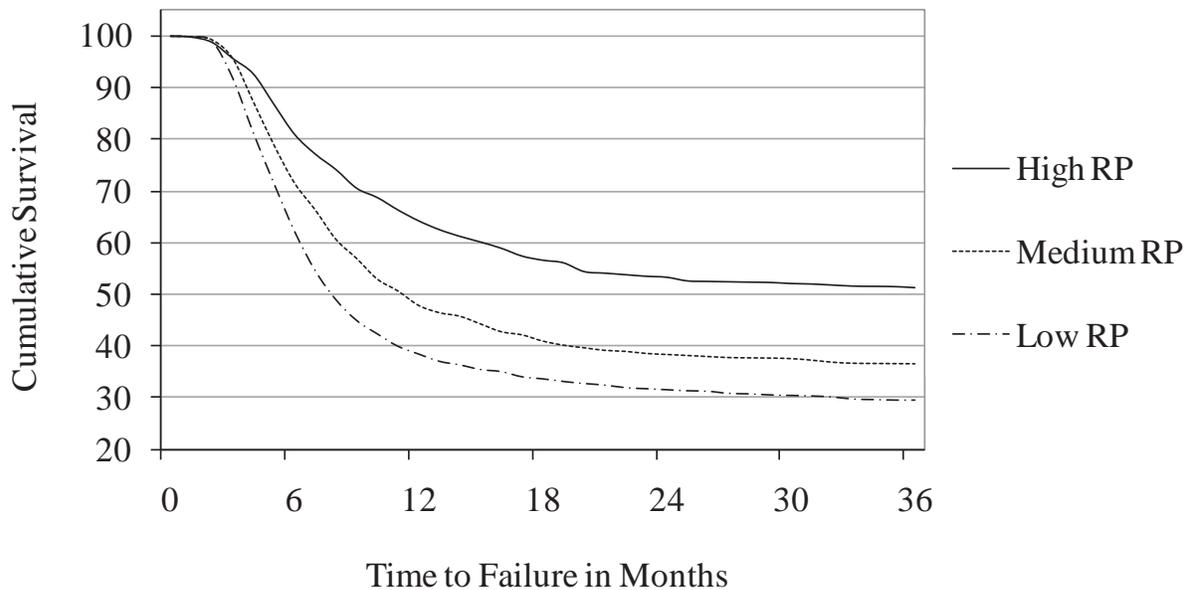
Table 28 presents the statistical results for the survival analysis. RP level was found to be significantly related to risk of return to custody after release. Specifically, belonging to the medium RP rather than the high RP group of offenders was found to increase the hazard of return to custody by 1.52, and belonging to the low RP rather than the high RP group of offenders was found to increase the hazard of return to custody by 1.93. In other words, taking time and RP level into account, offenders with a medium RP were 1.52 times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release, and offenders with a low RP were 1.93 times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release.

Table 28

Cox Regression Hazard Ratios for RP Factors Related to Failure upon Release: Aboriginal Males

Variable	B	Wald	Exp(B)	95% Confidence Interval
RP Level		108.69		
RP Level (1)	0.42	34.76	1.52***	1.32 – 1.75
RP Level (2)	0.66	103.90	1.93***	1.70 – 2.19

Note. ***$p<.001$. RP Level (1) = medium RP, and RP Level (2) = low RP. The high RP group was treated as the reference category.

Summary of Results

Less than one fifth (16%) of the 3,731 offenders included in the Aboriginal male sample were assessed as having a high reintegration potential. This group accounted for less than 20% of all admissions in the Quebec, Ontario, Prairies, and Pacific regions, and only 10% of Inuit offenders, 15% of First Nations offenders and 22% of Métis offenders were identified as having a high RP. Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were found to be serving significantly shorter sentences (1,131 days) than offenders in the other RP groups. While they were most commonly admitted with violent offences (55%), this is a lower percentage relative to the other RP groups (70% for medium RP offenders and 80% for low RP offenders), but they were significantly more likely than offenders in the other RP groups to be admitted with drug offences.

Collectively, more than half (60%) of the Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP participated in institutional correctional programming, most frequently participating in substance abuse programs which is consistent with the high level of need in this area (76% of offenders had some/considerable difficulty). More than half of the sample (62%) participated in educational programs, 80% participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN), and 38% participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration, rates higher than for the other two RP groups.

Approximately one third of the offenders in the high RP group (38%) were involved in some way in an institutional incident while incarcerated, and were significantly less likely than offenders in the low RP group to be the instigator/associate of an institutional incident. They were significantly more likely than offenders in the other RP groups to be admitted and released at minimum security, and to participate in both an ETA and a UTA. Further, offenders in the high RP group also experienced their first ETA and their first UTA at an earlier date (after serving 253 days or 23% and 418 days or 35% of their sentences, respectively) than offenders with medium and low RPs.

Of the 613 offenders in the high RP Aboriginal male group, 99% had been released by the end of the follow-up period. They were significantly more likely than offenders in the other RP groups to have day parole and full parole as their first release (68% compared to 43% for medium RP offenders and 19% for low RP offenders). On average, this group served 41% of their sentence before their first release, a significantly shorter percentage than offenders in the

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other RP groups. Collectively, 41% of those who were released by the end of the follow-up period participated in community programming, most frequently participating in substance abuse and Counter-Point programs, and the majority of offenders (85%) were unemployed during their release.

Of the members of the high RP group released, 50% were re-admitted to a federal institution by the end of the two-year follow-up period, the majority of whom (60%) had their release revoked without an offence. They were significantly less likely than offenders in the other RP groups to experience any revocation or new offence upon release, and were more likely to be successful on their first release. Offenders in the other RP groups were found to return to custody more quickly than the high RP group, with the average high RP offender failing after ten and a half months. By the time the three groups had been on release for two years, the rates were 47% for the high RP group, 59% for the medium RP group, and 68% for the low RP group. Overall, offenders with a medium RP were one and a half times more likely and offenders with a low RP were almost two times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release.

Results: Non-Aboriginal Women

Admission Information

In total, 876 non-Aboriginal women admitted to the Correctional Service of Canada on a new sentence over a period of five years (2002-2006) were included in the sample. More than half (62%, *n*=547) were assessed as having a high reintegration potential (RP). Just under one quarter (24%, *n*=207) were assessed as having a medium RP, and the remainder were assessed as having a low RP (14%, *n*=122).

Demographic information

The following presents a demographic summary of non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP. As illustrated in Table 29, in each of the five regions non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP accounted for at least half of all admissions. For this group of offenders, admissions were greatest in the Ontario region (72%, *n*=237) and lowest in the Quebec region (51%, *n*=84).

Table 29

RP Level Percentages within Regional Admissions: Non-Aboriginal Women

RP Level	Regional Admissions (%)					
	Atlantic (*n*=127)	Quebec (*n*=165)	Ontario (*n*=329)	Prairies (*n*=180)	Pacific (*n*=75)	Overall (*N*=876)
High	54	51	72	65	53	62
Medium	32	25	22	19	24	24
Low	13	24	6	16	23	14

Table 30 outlines the RP distributions across ethnocultural groups. At 57%, the White group (*n*=389) had the lowest percentage of offenders with a high RP; most other groups had at least 75% of offenders rated as high RP.

Table 30

RP Level Percentages within Ethnocultural Status[28]: Non-Aboriginal Women

RP Level	Race (%)							
	White (n=680)	Black (n=103)	Other (n=42)	South/South East Asian (n=14)	Chinese (n=9)	Arab/West Asian (n=4)	Latin American (n=5)	Overall (N=857)
High	57	81	80	79	100	75	60	62
Medium	26	15	10	21	0	25	40	24
Low	16	5	10	0	0	0	0	14

Note. Race data was missing for 19 non-Aboriginal women.

The average age of non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP at the time of admission was 36 years (SD=10). For non-Aboriginal women offenders with medium and low RPs, the average ages at time of admission were 33 years (SD=9) and 31 years (SD=9), respectively. A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) found significant differences in mean age between the three RP levels ($F(2, 873) = 12.24$, $p<.001$). Results of pair-wise comparisons found that offenders with a high RP were significantly older at admission than both offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP (Mean difference = 2.19, $p<.05$; Mean difference = 4.61, $p<.001$, respectively).

Sentence length[29]

Non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were serving average aggregate sentence lengths of 1,121 days (3.08 years, SD=528), which were longer than offenders with a medium RP who were averaging 1,087 days (2.98 years, SD=467) and shorter than offenders with a low RP who were averaging 1,280 days (3.51 years, SD=733). The minimum aggregate sentence length for the high RP group was 731 days and the maximum length was 4,383 days (12.03 years). An ANOVA found significant differences in the mean sentence length between the three RP levels ($F(2, 846) = 4.52$, $p<.05$). Results of pair-wise comparisons found that the aggregate sentence lengths of offenders with a high RP did not differ significantly from those of offenders with medium or low RPs. Though not significant, it is interesting to note that offenders with a medium RP tended to have shorter aggregate sentences than offenders with a high RP.

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[28] Aboriginal status (Inuit, Métis and First Nations) was omitted from this analysis of ethnocultural status. It is discussed in detail in the Aboriginal Women section of this report.

[29] There were 3 offenders with a high RP, 2 offenders with a medium RP, and 22 offenders with a low RP missing aggregate sentence data. These offenders had life sentences (n=27).

Admission offence[30]

Non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP had an average of 6.85 offences (*SD*=28.46) at admission. The lowest number of current offences was one and the highest number of current offences was 643[31]. Aside from those offences classified as 'other non-violent offences', offenders with a high RP were most often admitted with drug offences (52%, *n*=284), a high percentage relative to the other RP groups (27%, *n*=56 for medium RP offenders and 16%, *n*=20 for low RP offenders). Only one fifth of the high RP group were admitted with violent offences (23%, *n*=128), a low percentage relative to the other RP groups (58%, *n*=121 for medium RP offenders and 74%, *n*=90 for low RP offenders).

Overall, non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with medium and low RPs to be admitted with drug offences (χ^2(2, *N*=875) = 74.48, *p*<.001) and significantly less likely to be admitted with violent offences (χ^2(2, *N*=875) = 150.81, *p*<.001). Further, they were significantly less likely than offenders with a medium RP to be admitted with property offences (χ^2(2, *N*=875) = 11.21, *p*<.05) and other non-violent offences (χ^2(2, *N*=875) = 12.41, *p*<.05). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 31.

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[30] Admission offence data was available for 546 (>99%) non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP.
[31] Mean number of offences changed from 6.85 (*SD*=28.46) to 5.68 (*SD*=8.13) when the individual who committed 643 offences was omitted from analyses. Median number of offences for the 546 offenders equalled 2.00.

Table 31

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Admission Offence Type: Non-Aboriginal Women

Admission Offence Type	RP Level (%)			
	High (n=546)	Medium (n=207)	Low (n=122)	Overall (N=875)
Violent Offences	23	59	74	39
Drug Offences	52	27	16	41
Property Offences	32	43	27	34
Other Non-Violent Offences	53	67	56	57
	Z scores			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Violent Offences	-9.12***	-10.72***	-2.80**	
Drug Offences	6.14***	7.14***	2.21*	
Property Offences	-2.86**	1.04	2.89**	
Other Non-Violent Offences	-3.51***	-0.56	2.07*	

Note. *p*<.05, **p*<.01, ***p*<.001. Violent offences include homicide, robbery, sex, weapon, assault and kidnapping/hostage taking/forcible confinement offences as well as other violent offences (arson, utter threats). Drug offences include import/export, production, trafficking and possession offences. Property offences include theft and break & enter offences. Other non-violent offences include escape/UAL and all other non-violent offences.

Institutional Program Participation

Correctional programs

Table 32 outlines the institutional correctional programs in which non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP participated. Collectively, 45% (*n*=247) of the 547 high RP offenders participated in institutional correctional programming compared to 72% (*n*=149) of the 207 medium RP offenders and 65% (*n*=79) of the 122 low RP offenders. The high RP offenders enrolled in a total of 334 programs, with an average of 1.35 programs (*SD*=0.60) per offender, and fully completed approximately 71% (*M*=0.97, *SD*=0.66) of these programs. Non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were found to most frequently participate in substance abuse and living skills programs.

Table 32

Percentages by Category of those Non-Aboriginal Women Offenders with a High RP that Participated in Institutional Correctional Programs[32]

Institutional Correctional Program	Enrolled (%) (*n*=247)	Completed (%) (*n*=247)
Substance abuse	35	72
Living skills	15	92
Other	<1	50

Note. Total percentage will be greater than 100% as offenders could participate in multiple programs. 'Other' programs include sex offender programs and violence prevention programs. Programs were included in the 'other' category if their enrolment was less than 1% of the group. Completed (%) reflects the percentage of those enrolled who completed the program.

The high rate of participation in substance abuse and living skills programming for non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP is consistent with the high percentage of offenders identified with 'considerable need' in these areas. For example, 27% of offenders with a high RP were identified as having considerable need in the area of substance abuse. Likewise, 18% of offenders with a high RP were identified with considerable need in the area of personal/emotional orientation, which is partly addressed in the living skills program. See Table 32-A for the percentage of high RP offenders with considerable difficulty in the other need domains.

Table 32-A

Percentage of Non-Aboriginal Women Offenders with a High RP with Considerable Difficulty in Each of the Need Domains

Need Domain	Considerable Difficulty (%)
Substance Abuse	27
Personal / Emotional Orientation	18
Associates and Social Interaction	12
Marital / Family	8
Attitude	6
Employment	5
Community Functioning	2

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[32] For all women offenders, access to correctional programs is based on risk and needs as identified on the Custody Rating Scale at intake. Some of the programs under the women offender programs heading (e.g., engagement program, self-management program) are available for all women regardless of risk. Prior to April 1st, 2011, phase 1 of the Women Offender Substance Abuse Program was available to all women regardless of risk. The Living Skills program (no longer offered) was also readily accessible. Access to other programs (e.g., violence prevention and sex offender programs) is restricted to moderate and high risk offenders.

Overall, it was found that offenders with a high RP started and completed significantly fewer programs than did offenders with a medium RP. A multivariate analysis of covariance (MANCOVA) found significant differences in the mean number of programs started and completed between the three RP levels when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' $\lambda = 0.94$, $F(4, 904) = 7.08$, $p<.001$), with univariate between-subjects tests illustrating that RP level was significantly related to the number of programs started ($F(2, 453) = 12.94$, $p<.001$) and the number of programs completed ($F(2, 453) = 3.56$, $p<.05$). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons are presented in Table 33.

Table 33

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Measures of Institutional Correctional Program Participation: Non-Aboriginal Women

Institutional Correctional Programs	RP Level Means			
	High (n=244)	Medium (n=143)	Low (n=70)	Overall (N=457)
Number of Programs Started	1.36	1.94	1.90	1.62
Number of Programs Completed	0.97	1.33	1.33	1.13
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Number of Programs Started	-0.43***	-0.16	0.27	
Number of Programs Completed	-0.22*	-0.02	0.21	

Note. *p<.05, ***p<.001. Mean differences are based on estimated marginal means evaluated at the covariate rather than the RP level mean. Only those cases with information available for 'amount of time served in the institution' were included in the MANCOVA; those without information were excluded from the analyses.

Education programs

Almost two thirds 63% (n=343) of the high RP non-Aboriginal women group participated in institutional education programs, and of those 63% (n=215) completed their programs. These offenders spent an average of 198 days in education programs (SD=192). An analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) found that offenders with a high RP were enrolled in institutional educational programs for significantly fewer days than offenders with a low RP when controlling for the amount of time served in the institution ($F(2, 579) = 3.43$, $p<.05$; Mean difference = -59, $p<.05$).

Days spent in institutional educational programs may be a function of the need for education programs based on the offender's level of educational attainment. The medium and low RP groups had a higher percentage of offenders who had not attained the designated

education levels (grade 8, grade 10, and high school diploma) than the high RP group. Offenders with medium and low RPs had more need for, and were more likely to spend time in these programs.

Institutional employment

Over three quarters (76%, n=416) of the high RP non-Aboriginal women group participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN) and 16% (n=86) participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration compared to 83% of the medium (n=173) and low (n=101) RP groups that participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN), and 32% (n=67) of the medium and 31% (n=38) of the low RP groups that participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration. The high RP non-Aboriginal women offenders spent an average of 362 days in institutional employment (SD=352) and 211 days in CORCAN employment (SD=226), and participated in 2.84 employment placements (SD=2.11) and 1.92 CORCAN placements (SD=1.51) during their time in the institution. An ANCOVA found that offenders with a high RP were employed for significantly fewer days than offenders with a low RP when controlling for the amount of time served in the institution ($F(2, 673) = 4.96$, $p<.01$; Mean difference = -149, $p<.05$). While offenders with a high RP were also found to be employed for fewer days than offenders with a medium RP (Mean difference = -84), this difference was not statistically significant.

Days spent in institutional and CORCAN employment may be a function of the need for employment training based on the offender's previous work record. The low RP group had a higher percentage of offenders with various periods of unemployment or unstable job employment than the high RP group. Offenders with a low RP had more need for, and were more likely to spend time in these placements.

Institutional Adjustment
Institutional incidents

Table 34 outlines the involvement of non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP in institutional incidents. Over one third of the group (41%, n=225) was involved in some way in an institutional incident while incarcerated, however this was a low percentage relative to the other RP groups (64%, n=132 for offenders with a medium RP and 76%, n=93 for offenders with

a low RP). The mean level of involvement in institutional incidents for non-Aboriginal women offenders was 2.75 incidents per person (SD=3.51). Aside from those incidents classified in OMS as being 'other', offenders with a high RP were most often the instigators/associates in disciplinary problem incidents and assault incidents, and were most often the victims of assault incidents.

Table 34

Percentages by Category of those Non-Aboriginal Women Offenders with a High RP that were Involved in Institutional Incidents

Incident Type	Role in Incident (%) (n=225)	
	Instigator / Associate	Victim
Assault	16	12
Inmate fight	8	<1
Possession of contraband	14	<1
Unauthorized item	12	0
Minor disturbance	2	0
Disciplinary problem[a]	32	10
Intelligence[b]	9	2
Other	55	7

Note. Role categories are not exclusive. [a] An inmate's refusal to follow staff orders and/or disrespectful behaviour by inmates toward any person. [b] Anything found on an inmate's person or in a cell that may suggest a threat to security or a breach of institutional regulations.

Overall, offenders with a high RP were less likely than those classified as medium or low RP to be involved in institutional incidents. It was found that offenders with a high RP were significantly less likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to be the instigator/associate in an institutional incident. A MANCOVA found significant differences in the mean number of incidents in which offenders were identified as playing the instigator/associate or victim role between the three RP levels when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' λ = 0.97, $F(4, 816) = 3.20$, $p<.05$), with univariate between-subjects tests illustrating that RP level was significantly related to mean number of instigator/associate incidents ($F(2, 409) = 6.22$, $p<.01$). Results of pair-wise comparisons for significant effects are presented in Table 35.

Table 35

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Measures of Role in Institutional Incidents: Non-Aboriginal Women

	RP Level Means			
	High	Medium	Low	Overall
Role in Institutional Incident	(n=219)	(n=125)	(n=69)	(N=413)
Instigator/Associate	2.21	4.76	5.91	3.60
Victim	0.35	0.66	0.72	0.51
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Instigator/Associate	-1.92**	-2.14*	-0.22	
Victim	-	-	-	

Note. *p<.05, **p<.01. Mean differences are based on estimated marginal means evaluated at the covariate rather than the RP level mean. Only those cases with information available for 'amount of time served in the institution' were included in the MANCOVA; those without information were excluded from the analyses.

Changes in security level[33]

The left-hand column of Table 36 outlines the percentage of offenders with a high RP at each security level rating at admission and upon release. Unlike the male groups, the percentage of offenders with a high RP in a maximum security classification remained unchanged from first to last security classification.

Overall, offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to be admitted and released at minimum security and medium security. Furthermore, offenders with a high RP were significantly less likely than offenders with a low RP to be admitted and significantly less likely than those with a medium RP or those with a low RP to be released at maximum security. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels in offender security level classification at admission (χ^2(4, N=870) = 376.93, p<.001) and at release (χ^2(4, N=870) = 225.58, p<.001). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 36.

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[33] Offender security level was available for 99% (n=542) of the high RP non-Aboriginal women offender group.

Table 36

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Offender Security Level at Admission and Release: Non-Aboriginal Women

	RP Level (%)			
Admission Security Level	High (*n*=542)	Medium (*n*=206)	Low (*n*=122)	Overall (*N*=870)
Minimum	81	39	6	61
Medium	18	57	64	34
Maximum	<1	4	30	6
Release Security Level				
Minimum	85	51	27	69
Medium	15	43	52	26
Maximum	<1	6	21	5
	Z scores			
Admission Security Level	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Minimum	11.24***	16.05***	6.56***	
Medium	-10.57***	-10.37***	-1.19	
Maximum	-3.06	-12.27***	-6.73***	
Release Security Level				
Minimum	9.56***	13.13***	4.24***	
Medium	-8.26***	-9.02***	-1.57	
Maximum	-4.57***	-9.88***	-4.06***	

Note. ****p*<.001.

Admission security level is influenced by a variety of factors including an offender's offence history, and as a result, 6% of non-Aboriginal women offenders with a low RP were rated at minimum security at admission. When compared to their low RP counterparts admitted at medium security, the low RP group admitted at minimum security had fewer offenders who were admitted with a violent offence and had significantly more previous offences.

Escorted and unescorted temporary absences

The mean number of escorted (ETA) and unescorted (UTA) temporary absences in which non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP participated during their period of incarceration was assessed. Overall, these offenders participated in an average of 4.94 ETAs (*SD*=11.82) and 0.31 UTAs (*SD*=1.91), with the most frequently participated in ETA being the 15-day personal development absence (*M*=3.02, *SD*=9.25) and the most frequently participated in UTA being the family contact absence (*M*=0.18, *SD*=1.16). On average, non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP participated in their first ETA after serving 190 days of their sentence (17%, *SD*=131),

compared to 292 days (22%, *SD*=286) and 424 days (28%, *SD*=322) for offenders with medium and low RPs, respectively, and participated in their first UTA after serving 351 days of their sentence (29%, *SD*=171), compared to 467 days (32%, *SD*=272) and 552 days (37%, *SD*=460) for offenders with medium and low RPs, respectively. Non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP participated in their first ETA and UTA at an earlier date than offenders with medium and low RPs.

UTA's are used to provide offenders with their first conditional release opportunity. Offenders who are released early in their sentence, prior to serving one third of their aggregate sentence length, would have little opportunity to participate in a UTA. Results from this study indicate that only 3% (*n*=14) of 425 high RP offenders released prior to serving one third of their sentence participated in a UTA. UTA's are not an option, and may not be needed for offenders who are released early. On the other hand, offenders released after serving one third of their sentence are more likely to benefit from a UTA, and within the high RP group 22% (*n*=25) of 115 offenders who were released after serving one third of their sentence participated in a UTA. Additionally, for those non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP who served less than one third of their sentence prior to release, they participated in their first UTA after serving 20% of their sentence, while those who served more than one third of their sentence prior to release participated in their first UTA after serving 35% of their sentence.

Overall, it was found that offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a low RP to participate in an ETA. A MANCOVA found significant differences in the mean number of total ETAs and total UTAs between the three RP levels when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' $\lambda = 0.98$, $F(4, 1,662) = 4.91$, $p<.001$), with univariate between-subjects tests illustrating that RP level was significantly related to mean ETAs ($F(2, 832) = 8.64$, $p<.001$). Results of pair-wise comparisons for significant effects are presented in Table 37.

Table 37

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Measures of ETA and UTA Participation: Non-Aboriginal Women

	RP Level Means			
	High	Medium	Low	Overall
Type of Temporary Absence	(*n*=540)	(*n*=199)	(*n*=97)	(*N*=836)
Number of ETAs	4.94	7.24	6.58	5.68
Number of UTAs	0.31	0.76	0.80	0.48
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium		High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low
Number of ETAs	0.50		5.79***	5.28**
Number of UTAs	-		-	-

Note. ****p*<.01, ***p*<.001. Mean differences are based on estimated marginal means evaluated at the covariate rather than the RP level mean. Only those cases with information available for 'amount of time served in the institution' were included in the MANCOVA; those without information were excluded from the analyses. The relative representation of types of ETAs not related to risk (i.e., medical and compassionate) is 9% for offenders with a high RP; 10% for offenders with a medium RP; and 25% for offenders with a low RP. The relative representation of types of UTAs not related to risk (i.e., medical and compassionate) is 2% for offenders with a high RP; 0% for offenders with a medium RP; and 6% for offenders with a low RP.

Release Profiles and Outcomes

Release timeline of events

Of the 547 offenders in the high RP non-Aboriginal women group, 99% (*n*=541) had been released by the end of the follow-up period. The first release type typically experienced by these offenders was day parole (84%, *n*=455), with only 8% being released first on statutory release (*n*=42) and 8% of offenders being released first on full parole (*n*=44).

Overall, non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to have day parole as their first release and significantly more likely than offenders with a medium RP to have full parole as their first release. Offenders with a high RP were significantly less likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to have statutory release as their first release, and significantly less likely than offenders with a low RP to have warrant expiry as their first release. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels in first release type ($\chi^2(6, N=838) = 184.65, p<.001$). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 38.

Table 38

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on First Release Type: Non-Aboriginal Women

First Release Type	RP Level (%)			
	High (*n*=541)	Medium (*n*=202)	Low (*n*=99)	Overall (*N*=842)
Day Parole	84	61	33	73
Full Parole	8	4	5	7
Statutory Release	8	34	60	20
Warrant Expiry	0	1	2	<1
	Z scores			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Day Parole	6.65***	10.86***	4.52***	
Full Parole	1.96*	1.04	-0.44	
Statutory Release	-9.00***	-12.98***	-4.13***	
Warrant Expiry	-1.64	-3.32***	-1.25	

Note. *p<.05, ***p<.001.

On average, offenders with a high RP served 29% of their sentence (*SD*=14) before their first release (day parole, full parole, statutory release). For offenders granted day parole, they served an average of 24% of their sentence before their release (*SD*=9) and for offenders granted full parole, they served an average of 36% of their sentence before their release (*SD*=7).

Overall, it was found that offenders with a high RP served a significantly shorter percentage of their sentence before their first release than did offenders with medium or low RPs. An ANOVA found significant group differences in the mean percentage of sentence served prior to first release between the three RP levels ($F(2, 835) = 133.99$, $p<.001$). Results of pair-wise comparisons are presented in Table 39.

Table 39

Results of Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Percentage of Sentence Served Prior to First Release[34]: Non-Aboriginal Women

	RP Level Means			
	High (*n=541*)	Medium (*n=200*)	Low (*n=97*)	Overall (*N=838*)
Percentage of sentence served prior to first release	29	42	54	34
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Percentage of sentence served prior to first release	-13.44***	-25.72***	-12.27***	

Note. ***p<.001

Community program participation

Table 40 outlines the community programs in which high RP non-Aboriginal women offenders, who were released by the end of the follow-up period, participated. Collectively, 38% (*n=207*) of the 540 released offenders in this group participated in community programming. These offenders enrolled in a total of 338 programs, with an average of 1.63 programs (*SD=0.94*) per offender. Non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were found to most frequently participate in women offender and substance abuse programs in the community.[35]

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[34] First release includes offenders released on day parole, full parole and statutory release before the end of the follow-up period.

[35] See Table 32-A for levels of considerable difficulty in each of the need domain areas.

Table 40

Percentages by Category of those Non-Aboriginal Women Offenders with a High RP that Participated in Community Correctional Programs[36]

Correctional Program	% (*n*=207)
Women offender[a]	29
Substance abuse	17
Living Skills	3
Other	<1

Note. 'Other' includes violent offenders and sex offender programs. Programs were included in the 'other' category if their enrolment was less than 1% of the group.

[a] Women offender programs include women offender –moderate intensity program, women-offender- self management program and women's modular intervention program.

Release outcome

Of the 541 offenders with a high RP who were released to the community on day parole, full parole, or statutory release, 173 (32%) were re-admitted to a federal institution by the end of the two-year follow-up period. Of those, the majority (71%, *n*=122) had a revocation of their release without an offence. Few of these offenders were re-admitted with a new offence after their warrant expiry date (WED; 9%, *n*=15). When compared to their high RP counterparts who were successful on their first release, the high RP group that failed had a smaller percentage of offenders rated as low-risk and low-need, had significantly more current offences, and had significantly fewer UTAs.

Overall, based on a two-year fixed follow-up period, offenders with a high RP (28%) were significantly less likely than offenders with a medium (52%) or a low (47%) RP to experience any revocation or new offence upon release, and were more likely to be successful on their first release. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels and release outcome ($\chi^2(2, N$=836) = 43.65, *p*<.001). In particular, offenders with a high RP who received a discretionary release (day parole or full parole) were less likely than their medium RP counterparts to fail on release. Results of pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 41.

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[36] For all women offenders (non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal), access to correctional programs is based on risk and needs as identified on the Custody Rating Scale at intake. Some of the programs comprising the women offender programs (e.g., self-management program) are available for all women regardless of risk. Prior to April 1st, 2011, phase 1 of the Women Offender Substance Abuse Program was available to all women regardless of risk. The Living Skills program (no longer offered) was also readily accessible.

Table 41

Results of Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Failure on First Release by First Release Type, based on a Two-Year Fixed Follow-Up Period: Non-Aboriginal Women

Failure on Release by First Release Type	RP Level (%)		
	High (*n*=540)	Medium (*n*=199)	Low (*n*=96)
Discretionary Release	27	51	40
Statutory Release	34	53	53
Overall	28	52	47
	Z scores		
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low
Discretionary Release	-5.26***	-1.64	1.26
Statutory Release	-1.91	-0.49	1.27
Overall	-6.15***	-3.90***	0.70

Note. ***$p<.001$. These analyses examined failure on release during a two-year fixed follow-up period after first release. Those who returned to custody after the follow-up period (*n*=39) and those with missing date information (*n*=1) and release type (*n*=1) were excluded from these analyses.

Further, when type of failure on release (revocation with offence and revocation without offence) was examined, non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP who were granted discretionary release had a higher percentage of offenders with a revocation with offence than offenders who were released on statutory release. This suggests that for this group, release type appears to be associated with the type of failure on release.

A survival analysis using the Cox proportional hazards regression model was conducted to determine failure upon release and to estimate whether RP level was associated with the risk of failure (Figure 3 illustrates the survival curves for the three RP level groups). Offenders with a medium RP and offenders with a low RP were found to return to custody more quickly than did offenders with a high RP, with the average high RP offender failing after 12.26 months (*SD*=11.65), as compared to offenders with a medium RP (*M*=9.23, *SD*=9.88) and offenders with a low RP (*M*=10.55, *SD*=12.69). The difference in the rate of failure is demonstrated by the steeper slope of the survival curve for the medium and low RP offenders compared to the high RP group.

At one year after release, 21% of the high RP group experienced a failure on release, compared to 47% of the medium RP group and 40% of the low RP group. By the time the three groups had been on release for two years, these rates had grown to 28% of the high RP group,

52% of the medium RP group, and 49% of the low RP group.[37] After two years, the survival curves level off and become parallel.

Figure 3. Survival function: Non-Aboriginal women offenders
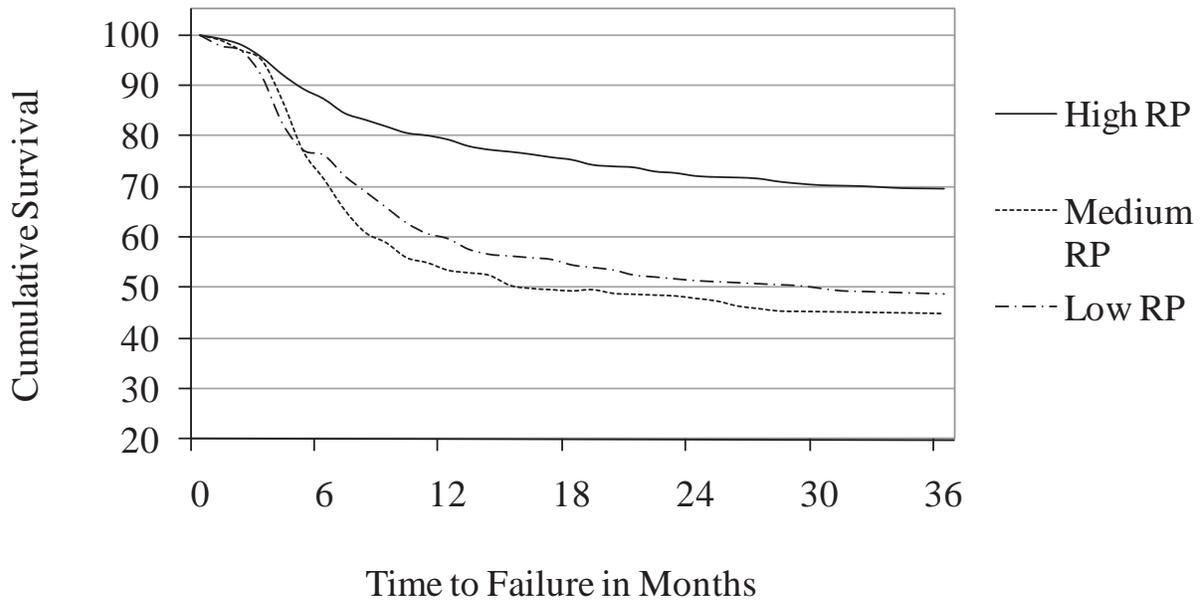
Table 42 presents the statistical results for the survival analysis. RP level was found to be significantly related to risk of return to custody after release. Specifically, belonging to the medium RP rather than the high RP group of offenders was found to increase the hazard of return to custody by 2.23, and belonging to the low RP rather than the high RP group of offenders was found to increase the hazard of return to custody by 1.96. In other words, taking time and RP level into account, offenders with a medium RP were 2.23 times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release, and offenders with a low RP were 1.96 times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release.

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[37] The discrepancy in percentages between the two-year outcome presented here and the two-year fixed outcome presented in Table 41 is due to the number of offenders included in each analysis. All non-Aboriginal women offenders released prior to the end of the follow-up period were included in the survival analysis while only those offenders who had been on release for at least two years were included in the two-year fixed outcome analysis.

Table 42

Cox Regression Hazard Ratios for RP Factors Related to Failure upon Release: Non-Aboriginal Women

Variable	B	Wald	Exp(B)	95% Confidence Interval
RP Level		49.28		
RP Level (1)	0.80	43.77	2.23***	1.76 – 2.83
RP Level (2)	0.68	17.92	1.96***	1.44 – 2.68

Note. ***$p < .001$. RP Level (1) = medium RP, and RP Level (2) = low RP. The high RP group was treated as the reference category.

Summary of Results

More than half (62%) of the 876 offenders included in the non-Aboriginal women sample were assessed as having a high reintegration potential. This group accounted for at least half of all admissions in all five regions, and accounted for at least 75% of most ethnocultural groups (one exception was the White group which only accounted for 57% of admissions). Non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were significantly older at the time of admission. They were most commonly, and significantly more likely than offenders in the other RP groups to be admitted with drug offences (52% compared to 27% for medium RP offenders and 16% for low RP offenders).

Collectively, almost half (45%) of the non-Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP participated in institutional correctional programming, most frequently participating in substance abuse programs, which is consistent with the high level of need in this area (45% of offenders had some/considerable difficulty) and they were significantly less likely to start and complete these programs than offenders with a medium RP. More than half of the sample (63%) participated in educational programs, 76% participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN), and 16% participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration rates higher than for the other two RP groups.

Over one third of the offenders in the high RP group (41%) were involved in some way in an institutional incident while incarcerated, and were significantly less likely than offenders in the other RP groups to be the instigator/associate of an institutional incident. They were significantly more likely than offenders in the other RP groups to be admitted and released at minimum security, and significantly more likely than offenders in the low RP group to participate in an ETA. Further, offenders in the high RP group also experienced their first ETA and their first UTA at an earlier date (after serving 190 days or 17% and 351 days or 29% of

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their sentences, respectively) than offenders with medium and low RPs.

Of the 547 offenders in the high RP non-Aboriginal women group, 99% had been released by the end of the follow-up period. They were significantly more likely than offenders in the other RP groups to have day parole as their first release (92% compared to 65% for medium RP offenders and 38% for low RP offenders). On average, this group served 29% of their sentence before their first release, a significantly shorter percentage than offenders in the other RP groups. Collectively, 38% of those who were released by the end of the follow-up period participated in community programming, most frequently participating in women offender and substance abuse programs, and the majority of offenders (87%) were unemployed during their release.

Of the members of the high RP group released, 32% were re-admitted to a federal institution by the end of the two-year follow-up period, the majority of whom (71%) had their release revoked without an offence. They were significantly less likely than offenders in the other RP groups to experience any revocation or new offence upon release, and were more likely to be successful on their first release. Offenders in the other RP groups were found to return to custody more quickly than the high RP group, with the average high RP offender failing after just over a year. By the time the three groups had been on release for two years, the rates were 28% for the high RP group, 52% for the medium RP group, and 49% for the low RP group. Overall, offenders with a medium RP were more than two times more likely and offenders with a low RP were just under two times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release.

Results: Aboriginal Women

Admission Information

In total, 324 Aboriginal women offenders admitted to the Correctional Service of Canada on a new sentence over a period of five years (2002-2006) were included in the sample. One third (34%, *n=109*) were assessed as having a high reintegration potential (RP). Just over one third (39%, *n=127*) were assessed as having a low RP, and the remainder were assessed as having a low RP (27%, *n=88*).

Demographic information

The following presents a demographic summary of Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP. As illustrated in Table 43, the admissions for Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were greatest in the Atlantic region (56%, *n=13*) and lowest in the Quebec region (12%, *n=1*).

Table 43

RP Level Percentages within Regional Admissions: Aboriginal Women

RP Level	Regional Admissions (%)					
	Atlantic (*n=23*)	Quebec (*n=8*)	Ontario (*n=40*)	Prairies (*n=216*)	Pacific (*n=37*)	Overall (*N=324*)
High	56	12	38	33	24	34
Medium	26	50	35	26	24	27
Low	17	38	27	42	51	39

Table 44 outlines the RP distributions across the three groups that make up the Aboriginal status group. Only 31% *(n=69)* of First Nations offenders were identified as having a high RP, while 40% (*n=38*) of Métis offenders and 50% (*n=2*) of Inuit offenders were identified as having a high RP.

Table 44

RP Level Percentages within Aboriginal Status: Aboriginal Women

	Aboriginal Status (%)			
RP Level	Métis (*n*=96)	First Nations (*n*=24)	Inuit (*n*=4)	Overall (*N*=324)
High	40	31	50	16
Medium	24	29	0	25
Low	36	40	50	58

The average age of Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP at the time of admission was 32 years (*SD*=10). For Aboriginal women with medium and low RPs, the average ages at time of admission were 32 years (*SD*=9) and 30 years (*SD*=8), respectively. A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) found no significant differences in mean age between the three RP levels ($F(2, 321) = 1.41$, $p=.25$).

Sentence length[38]

Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were serving average aggregate sentence lengths of 1,011 days (2.77 years, *SD*=373), which were shorter than offenders with a medium RP who were averaging 1,107 days (3.04 years, *SD*=403) and offenders with a low RP who were averaging 1,225 days (3.36 years, *SD*=662). The minimum aggregate sentence length for the high RP group was 731 days and the maximum length was 2,192 days (6.02 years). An ANOVA found significant differences in the mean sentence length between the three RP levels ($F(2, 312) = 5.07$, $p<.01$). Results of pair-wise comparisons found that offenders with a high RP had significantly shorter aggregate sentence lengths than offenders with a low RP (Mean difference = -214, $p<.01$), however, there was no significant difference between offenders with a high RP and those with a medium RP.

Admission offence[39]

Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP had an average of 4.63 offences (*SD*=5.30) at admission. The lowest number of current offences was one and the highest number of current offences was 38. Aside from those offences classified as 'other non-violent offences', offenders

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[38]There were 2 offenders with a medium RP and 7 offenders with a low RP missing aggregate sentence data. These offenders had life sentences (*n*=9).

[39] Admission offence data was available for all Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP.

with a high RP were most often admitted with violent offences (49%, *n*=53), however this was a low percentage relative to the other RP groups (65%, *n*=57 for medium RP offenders and 84%, *n*=107 for low RP offenders). Almost half of the high RP group were admitted with drug offences (44%, *n*=48), a high percentage relative to the other RP groups (27%, *n*=24 for medium RP offenders and 13%, *n*=16 for low RP offenders).

Overall, Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with medium and low RPs to be admitted with drug offences (χ^2(2, *N*=324) = 29.30, *p*<.001), and significantly less likely to be admitted with violent offences (χ^2(2, *N*=324) = 33.93, *p*<.001). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 45.

Table 45

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Admission Offence Type: Aboriginal Women

Admission Offence Type	RP Level (%)			
	High (*n*=109)	Medium (*n*=88)	Low (*n*=127)	Overall (*N*=324)
Violent Offences	49	65	84	67
Drug Offences	44	27	13	27
Property Offences	22	24	29	25
Other Non-Violent Offences	60	64	53	58
	Z scores			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Violent Offences	-2.70*	-5.84***	-3.30**	
Drug Offences	2.43*	5.41***	2.72**	
Property Offences	-	-	-	
Other Non-Violent Offences	-	-	-	

Note. *p*<.05, ***p*<.01, ****p*<.001. Violent offences include homicide, robbery, sex, weapon, assault and kidnapping/hostage taking/forcible confinement offences as well as other violent offences (arson, utter threats). Drug offences include import/export, production, trafficking and possession offences. Property offences include theft and break & enter offences. Other non-violent offences include escape/UAL and all other non-violent offences.

Institutional Program Participation

Correctional programs

Table 46 outlines the institutional correctional programs in which Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP participated. Collectively, 73% (*n*=80) of the 109 high RP offenders participated in institutional correctional programming compared to 85% (*n*=75) of the 88 medium RP offenders and 76% (*n*=96) of the 127 low RP offenders. The high RP offenders

enrolled in a total of 132 correctional programs, with an average of 1.65 programs (SD=0.89) per offender, and fully completed approximately 71% (M=1.17, SD=0.79) of these programs. Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were found to most frequently participate in substance abuse and living skills programs.

Table 46

Percentages by Category of those Aboriginal Women Offenders with a High RP that Participated in Institutional Correctional Programs

Institutional Correctional Program	Enrolled (%) (n=80)	Completed (%) (n=80)
Substance abuse	61	73
Living skills	25	89
Violence prevention	15	94

Note. Total percentage will be greater than 100% as offenders could participate in multiple programs. Completed (%) reflects the percentage of those enrolled who completed the program.

The high rate of participation in substance abuse and living skills programming for Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP is consistent with the high percentage of offenders identified with 'considerable need' in these areas. For example, 61% of offenders with a high RP were identified as having considerable need in the area of substance abuse. Likewise, 17% of offenders with a high RP were identified with considerable need in the area of personal/emotional orientation, which is partly addressed in the living skills program. See Table 46-A for the percentage of high RP offenders with considerable difficulty in the other need domains.

Table 46-A

Percentage of Aboriginal Women Offenders with a High RP with Considerable Difficulty in Each of the Need Domains

Need Domain	Considerable Difficulty (%)
Substance Abuse	61
Personal / Emotional Orientation	17
Associates and Social Interaction	12
Marital / Family	16
Attitude	3
Employment	12
Community Functioning	2

Overall, there were no significant differences between RP levels on the number of programs started or completed. A multivariate analysis of covariance (MANCOVA) found no significant differences in the mean number of programs started and completed between the three RP levels when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' $\lambda =$ 0.99, $F(4, 456) = 0.32$, $p=.86$).

Education programs

Over three quarters (78%, $n=85$) of the high RP Aboriginal women group participated in institutional education programs, and of those 47% ($n=40$) completed their programs. These offenders spent an average of 220 days in education programs ($SD=195$). An analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) found no significant differences between RP levels in mean number of days enrolled in educational programs when controlling for the amount of time served in the institution ($F(2, 240) = 1.84$, $p=.16$).

The lack of significant mean differences may be explained in part by the high need for education programs for all RP groups. There were a high percentage of offenders with high, medium, and low RPs who had not attained the designated education levels (grade 8, grade 10, and high school diploma). Offenders from all three groups had a high need for, and were likely to spend time in these programs.

Institutional employment

Eighty-one percent ($n=88$) of the high RP Aboriginal women group participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN) and 14% ($n=15$) participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration compared to 78% of the medium ($n=69$) and 76% of the low ($n=97$) RP groups that participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN), and 17% ($n=15$) of the medium and 15% ($n=19$) of the low RP groups that participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration. The high RP Aboriginal women offenders spent an average of 368 days in institutional employment ($SD=328$) and 78 days in CORCAN employment ($SD=102$) and participated in 2.77 employment placements ($SD=1.66$) and 1.00 CORCAN placements during their time in the institution. An ANCOVA found no significant differences between RP levels in mean number of days employed when controlling for the amount of time served in the institution ($F(2, 241) =0.23$, $p=.79$).

The lack of significant mean differences may be explained in part by the high need for employment training for all RP groups. There were a high percentage of offenders with high, medium, and low RPs with various periods of unemployment or unstable job employment. Offenders from all three groups had a high need for, and were likely to spend time in these placements.

Institutional Adjustment

Institutional incidents

Table 47 outlines the involvement of Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP in institutional incidents. Approximately one third of the group (35%, n=38) was involved in some way in an institutional incident while incarcerated, however this was a low percentage relative to the other RP groups (44%, n=39 for offenders with a medium RP and 58%, n=74 for offenders with a low RP). The mean level of involvement in institutional incidents for Aboriginal women offenders was 2.47 incidents per person (SD=3.93). Aside from those incidents classified in OMS as being 'other', offenders with a high RP were most often the instigators/associates in inmate fight incidents and possession of contraband incidents, and were most often the victims of assault incidents.

Table 47

Percentages by Category of those Aboriginal Women Offenders with a High RP that were Involved in Institutional Incidents

Incident Type	Role in Incident (%) (n=38)	
	Instigator / Associate	Victim
Assault	8	8
Inmate fight	16	3
Possession of contraband	16	0
Unauthorized item	8	0
Minor disturbance	0	0
Disciplinary problem[a]	13	3
Intelligence[b]	8	0
Other	47	5

Note. Role categories are not exclusive.
[a] An inmate's refusal to follow staff orders and/or disrespectful behaviour by inmates toward any person.
[b] Anything found on an inmate's person or in a cell that may suggest a threat to security or a breach of institutional regulations.

Overall, there were no differences between RP levels in involvement in institutional incidents (as instigator/associate or victim). A MANCOVA found no significant differences in the mean number of incidents in which offenders were identified as playing the instigator/associate or victim role between the three RP levels when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' $\lambda = 0.96$, $F(4, 254) = 1.33$, $p=.26$).

Changes in security level[40]

The left-hand column of Table 48 outlines the percentage of offenders with a high RP at each security level rating at admission and upon release. Interestingly, approximately one quarter of those initially classified as medium security were reclassified to minimum security by the time of release.

Overall, offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to be admitted and released at minimum security, and significantly less likely than offenders with a medium or a low RP to be admitted and released at medium security. Finally, offenders with a high RP were significantly less likely than offenders with a low RP to be admitted and released at maximum security. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels in offender security level classification at admission ($\chi^2(4, N=323) = 88.80$, $p<.001$) and at release ($\chi^2(4, N=323) = 60.84$, $p<.001$). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 48.

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[40] Offender security level was available for 99% ($n=108$) of the high RP Aboriginal women offender group.

Table 48

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Offender Security Level at Admission and Release: Aboriginal Women

	RP Level (%)			
Admission Security Level	High (*n*=108)	Medium (*n*=88)	Low (*n*=127)	Overall (*N*=323)
Minimum	50	18	7	25
Medium	50	80	68	65
Maximum	0	2	24	10
Release Security Level				
Minimum	76	52	27	50
Medium	23	42	58	42
Maximum	<1	6	15	8
	Z scores			
Admission Security Level	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Minimum	4.62***	7.06***	2.07	
Medium	-4.27***	-2.76**	1.91	
Maximum	-1.57	-5.41***	-4.32***	
Release Security Level				
Minimum	3.46***	7.51***	3.80***	
Medium	-2.83***	-5.43***	-2.34	
Maximum	-1.92	-3.84***	-2.12	

Note. **$p<.01$, ***$p<.001$.

Admission security level is influenced by a variety of factors including an offender's risk profile and offence history, and as a result half (50%) of Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were rated at medium security at admission and 7% of offenders with a low RP were rated at minimum security at admission. When compared to their high RP counterparts admitted at minimum security, the high RP group admitted at medium security had a smaller percentage of offenders rated as low-risk and low-need and had more offenders who were admitted with a violent offence. On the other hand, when compared to their low RP counterparts admitted at medium security, the low RP group admitted at minimum security had fewer offenders who were admitted with a violent offence.

Escorted and unescorted temporary absences

The mean number of escorted (ETA) and unescorted (UTA) temporary absences in which Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP participated during their period of incarceration was assessed. Overall, these offenders participated in an average of 6.27 ETAs (*SD*=9.35) and 0.55 UTAs (*SD*=2.48), with the most frequently participated in ETA being the 15-day personal

development absence (M=5.44, SD=9.10), and the most frequently participated in UTA being the 60-day personal development absence (M=0.28, SD=1.76). On average, Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP participated in their first ETA after serving 176 days of their sentence (18%, SD=80), compared to 237 days (21%, SD=135) and 301 days (24%, SD=203) for offenders with medium and low RPs, respectively, and participated in their first UTA after serving 444 days of their sentence (37%, SD=166), compared to 417 days (35%, SD=280) and 528 days (39%, SD=176) for offenders with medium and low RPs, respectively. With one exception, Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP participated in their first ETA and UTA at an earlier date than offenders with medium and low RPs.

UTA's are used to provide offenders with their first conditional release opportunity. Offenders who are released early in their sentence, prior to serving one third of their aggregate sentence length, would have little opportunity to participate in a UTA. Results from this study indicate that only 6% (n=4) of 69 high RP offenders released prior to serving one third of their sentence participated in a UTA. UTA's are not an option, and may not be needed for offenders who are released early. On the other hand, offenders released after serving one third of their sentence are more likely to benefit from a UTA, and within the high RP group 15% (n=6) of 40 offenders who were released after serving one third of their sentence participated in a UTA. Additionally, for those Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP who served less than one third of their sentence prior to release, they participated in their first UTA after serving 21% of their sentence, while those who served more than one third of their sentence prior to release participated in their first UTA after serving 47% of their sentence.

Overall, offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a low RP to participate in an UTA. A MANCOVA found significant differences in the mean number of total ETAs and total UTAs between the three RP levels when the amount of time served in the institution was taken into account (Wilks' $\lambda = 0.97$, $F(4, 596) = 2.42$, $p<.05$), with univariate between-subjects tests illustrating that RP level was significantly related to mean UTAs ($F(2, 299) = 4.11$, $p<.05$). Results of pair-wise comparisons for significant effects are presented in Table 49.

Table 49

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Measures of ETA and UTA Participation: Aboriginal Women

Type of Temporary Absence	RP Level Means			
	High (n=109)	Medium (n=84)	Low (n=110)	Overall (N=303)
Number of ETAs	6.27	6.13	10.68[41]	7.83
Number of UTAs	0.55	0.20	0.31	0.37
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Number of ETAs	-	-	-	
Number of UTAs	0.55	0.66*	0.12	

Note. *p<.05. Mean differences are based on estimated marginal means evaluated at the covariate rather than the RP level mean. The relative representation of types of ETAs not related to risk (i.e., medical and compassionate) is 15% for offenders with a high RP; 23% for offenders with a medium RP; and 21% for offenders with a low RP. The relative representation of types of UTAs not related to risk (i.e., medical and compassionate) is 0% for all RP levels.

Release Profiles and Outcomes

Release timeline of events

All of the 109 offenders in the high RP Aboriginal women group had been released by the end of the follow-up period. The first release type typically experienced by these offenders was day parole (83%, *n*=90), with 12% being released first on statutory release (*n*=13) and 6% of offenders being released first on full parole (*n*=6).

Overall, Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely than offenders with a low RP to have day parole as their first release. Offenders with a high RP were significantly less likely than offenders with a medium RP or a low RP to have statutory release as their first release, and significantly less likely than offenders with a low RP to have warrant expiry as their first release. No significant differences were found among RP levels on full parole release. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels in first release type (χ^2(6, *N*=308) = 38.94, *p*<.001). Results of multiple pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 50.

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[41] Mean number of total ETAs changed from 10.68 (*SD*=23.86) to 6.59 (*SD*=10.86) when the five individuals who had more than 70 total ETAs were omitted from analyses. Median number of ETAs for the 122 offenders equalled 1.00.

Table 50

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on First Release Type: Aboriginal Women

First Release Type	RP Level (%)			
	High (*n*=109)	Medium (*n*=85)	Low (*n*=117)	Overall (*N*=311)
Day Parole	83	71	47	67
Full Parole	6	2	6	5
Statutory Release	12	27	42	27
Warrant Expiry	0	0	5	2
	Z scores			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low		Medium vs. Low
Day Parole	1.84	5.44***		3.33***
Full Parole	1.08	-0.19		-1.24
Statutory Release	-2.55*	-5.01***		-2.27*
Warrant Expiry	-	-2.20*		-1.93

Note. *p<.05, ***p<.001

On average, offenders with a high RP served 33% of their sentence (*SD*=15) before their first release (day parole, full parole or statutory release). For offenders granted day parole, they served an average of 28% of their sentence before their release (*SD*=11) and for offenders granted full parole, they served an average of 38% of their sentence before their release (*SD*=9).

Overall, it was found that offenders with a high RP served a significantly shorter percentage of their sentence before their first release than did offenders with medium or low RPs. An ANOVA found significant differences in the mean percentage of sentence served prior to first release between the three RP levels ($F(2, 302) = 25.82$, $p<.001$). Results of pair-wise comparisons are presented in Table 51.

Table 51

Results of Multiple Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining Differences between RP Levels on Percentage of Sentence Served Prior to First Release[42]: Aboriginal Women

	RP Level Means			
	High (*n*=109)	Medium (*n*=85)	Low (*n*=111)	Overall (*N*=305)
Percentage of sentence served prior to first release	33	42	49	41
	Mean Differences			
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low	
Percentage of sentence served prior to first release	-8.47***	-16.08***	-7.60***	

Note. **p<.01, ***p<.001

Community program participation

Table 52 outlines the community programs in which high RP Aboriginal women offenders, who were released by the end of the follow-up period, participated. Collectively, 53% (*n*=56) of the 109 released offenders in this group participated in community programming. These offenders enrolled in a total of 83 programs, with an average of 1.43 programs (*SD*=0.80) per offender. Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were found to most frequently participate in women offender and substance abuse programs in the community.[43]

Table 52

Percentages by Category of those Aboriginal Women Offenders with a High RP that Participated in Community Correctional Programs

Correctional Program	% (*n*=56)
Women offender	38
Substance abuse	17
Living skills	3
Violence prevention	3

Release outcome

Of the 109 offenders with a high RP who were released to the community on day parole, full parole, or statutory release, 45% (*n*=49) were re-admitted to a federal institution by the end

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[42] First release includes offenders released on day parole, full parole and statutory release before the end of the follow-up period.

[43] See Table 46-A for levels of difficulty in each of the need domain areas.

of the two-year follow-up period. Of those, the majority (78%, *n*=38) had a revocation of their release without an offence. Only one offender was re-admitted with a new offence after her warrant expiry date (WED). When compared to their high RP counterparts who were successful on their first release, the high RP group that failed had a smaller percentage of offenders rated as low-risk and low-need.

Overall, based on a two-year fixed follow-up period, offenders with a high RP (42%) were significantly less likely than offenders with a medium (62%) or a low (74%) RP to experience any revocation or new offence upon release and were more likely to be successful on their first release. Two-way contingency table analyses found significant group differences between RP levels and release outcome (χ^2(2, *N*=303) = 22.76, *p*<.001). Offenders with a high RP who received a discretionary release (day parole or full parole) as their first release were less likely than their medium and low RP counterparts to fail on release, and offenders with a high RP who received a statutory release first were less likely than their low RP counterparts to fail on release. Results of pair-wise comparisons of independent percentages are presented in Table 53.

Table 53

Results of Pair-Wise Comparisons Examining the Differences between RP Levels on Failure on First Release by First Release Type, based on a Two-Year Fixed Follow-Up Period: Aboriginal Women

Failure on Release by First Release Type	RP Level (%)		
	High (*n*=109)	Medium (*n*=84)	Low (*n*=110)
Discretionary Release	42	63	69
Statutory Release	46	59	79
Overall	42	62	74
	Z scores		
	High vs. Medium	High vs. Low	Medium vs. Low
Discretionary Release	-2.61**	-3.40***	-0.76
Statutory Release	-0.74	-2.35*	-1.75
Overall	-2.71**	-4.71***	-1.74

Note. *p*<.05,**p*<.01, ***p*<.001. These analyses examined failure on release during a two-year fixed follow-up period after first release. Those who returned to custody after the follow-up period (*n*=7) and those with missing date information (*n*=14) were excluded from these analyses.

Further, when type of failure on release (revocation with offence and revocation without offence) was examined, Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP who were granted discretionary release had a lower percentage of offenders with a revocation without offence than

offenders who were released on statutory release. This suggests that for this group, release type appears to be associated with the type of failure on release.

A survival analysis using the Cox proportional hazards regression model was conducted to determine the risk of failure upon release and to estimate whether RP level was associated with the risk of failure (Figure 4 illustrates the survival curves for the three RP level groups). Offenders with a low RP were found to return to custody more quickly than did offenders with a high RP, with the average high RP offender failing after 8.76 months (SD=8.13), as compared to offenders with a low RP (M=6.75, SD=5.07). Interestingly, offenders with a medium RP were found to return to custody more slowly than offenders in the other two RP groups, with the average medium RP offender failing after 9.35 months (SD=9.32). The difference in the rate of failure is demonstrated by the steeper slope of the survival curve for the medium and low RP offenders compared to the high RP group. However in this instance, the high RP group also failed at a relatively quick rate.

At one year after release, 39% of the high RP group experienced a failure on release, compared to 49% of the medium RP group and 68% of the low RP group. By the time the three groups had been on release for two years, these rates had grown to 43% of the high RP group, 62% of the medium RP group, and 74% of the low RP group[44]. After two years, the survival curves level off and become parallel.

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[44] The discrepancy in percentages between the two-year outcome presented here and the two-year fixed outcome presented in Table 53 is due to the number of offenders included in each analysis. All Aboriginal women offenders released prior to the end of the follow-up period were included in the survival analysis while only those offenders who had been on release for at least two years were included in the two-year fixed outcome analysis.

Figure 4. Survival function: Aboriginal women offenders
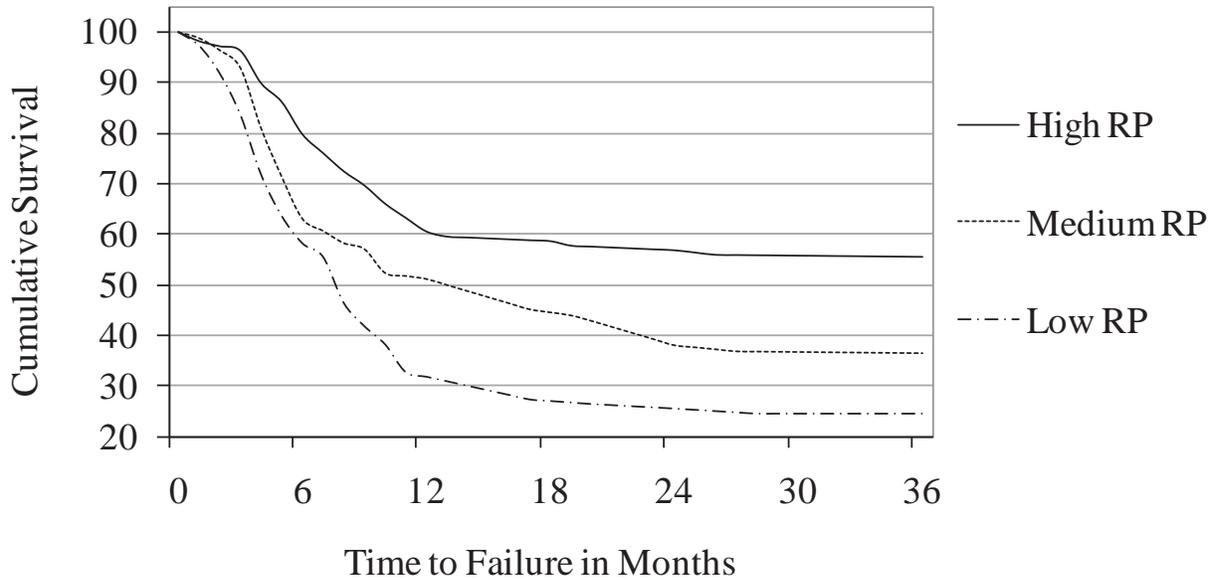
Table 54 presents the statistical results for the survival analysis. RP level was found to be significantly related to risk of return to custody after release. Specifically, belonging to the medium RP rather than the high RP group of offenders was found to increase the hazard of return to custody by 1.68, and belonging to the low RP rather than the high RP group of offenders was found to increase the hazard of return to custody by 2.41. In other words, taking time and RP level into account, offenders with a medium RP were 1.68 times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release, and offenders with a low RP were 2.41 times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release.

Table 54

Cox Regression Hazard Ratios for RP Factors Related to Failure upon Release: Aboriginal Women

Variable	B	Wald	Exp(B)	95% Confidence Interval
Risk Level		23.73		
RP Level (1)	0.52	6.94	1.68**	1.14 – 2.48
RP Level (2)	0.88	23.69	2.41***	1.69 – 3.44

Note. **$p<.01$, ***$p<.001$. RP Level (1) = medium RP, and RP Level (2) = low RP. The high RP group was treated as the reference category.

Summary of Results

One third (34%) of the 324 offenders included in the Aboriginal women sample were assessed as having a high reintegration potential. This group accounted for between 12% (Quebec) and 56% (Atlantic) of admissions in the five regions, and 31% of First Nations offenders, 40% of Métis offenders and 50% of Inuit offenders were identified as having a high RP. Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP were found to be serving significantly shorter sentences (1,011 days) than offenders in the low RP group. While they were most commonly admitted with violent offences (49%), this is a lower percentage relative to the other RP groups (65% for medium RP offenders and 85% for low RP offenders), but they were significantly more likely than offenders in the other RP groups to be admitted with drug offences.

Collectively, almost three quarters (73%) of the Aboriginal women offenders with a high RP participated in institutional correctional programming, most frequently participating in substance abuse programs, which is consistent with the high level of need in this area (85% of offenders had some/considerable difficulty). More than three quarters of the sample (78%) participated in educational programs, 80% participated in institutional employment (non-CORCAN), and 14% participated in CORCAN employment during their period of incarceration, rates higher than for the other two RP groups.

Approximately one third of the offenders in the high RP group (35%) were involved in some way in an institutional incident while incarcerated. They were significantly more likely than offenders in the other RP groups to be admitted and released at minimum security, and significantly more likely than offenders in the low RP group to participate in a UTA. Further, offenders in the high RP group also experienced their first ETA and their first UTA at an earlier date (after serving 176 days or 18% and 444 days or 37% of their sentences, respectively) than offenders with medium and low RPs.

Of the 109 offenders in the high RP Aboriginal women group, all had been released by the end of the follow-up period. They were significantly more likely than offenders in the low RP group to have day parole as their first release (89% compared to 73% for medium RP offenders and 53% for low RP offenders). On average, this group served 33% of their sentence before their first release, a significantly shorter percentage than offenders in the other RP groups. Collectively, 53% of the high RP group participated in community programming, most frequently participating in women offender and substance abuse programs, and the majority of offenders (89%) were unemployed during their release.

Of the members of this group, 45% were re-admitted to a federal institution by the end of the two-year follow-up period, the majority of whom (78%) had their release revoked without an offence. They were significantly less likely than offenders in the other RP groups to experience any revocation or new offence upon release, and were more likely to be successful on their first release. Offenders in the low RP group were found to return to custody more quickly than the high RP group, with the average high RP offender failing after almost nine months. By the time the three groups had been on release for two years, the rates were 43% for the high RP group, 62% for the medium RP group, and 74% for the low RP group. Overall, offenders with a medium RP were almost two times more likely and offenders with a low RP were almost two and a half times more likely than offenders with a high RP to return to custody after release.

Discussion

Overall, offenders identified as having a high reintegration potential (RP) are more successful in the correctional system than offenders identified as having a medium or low RP. Specifically, relative to medium and low RP offenders, those identified as high RP are more likely to take and complete programs that address their criminogenic needs, have high rates of participation in educational and employment programs, are less likely to be involved in institutional incidents, have earlier opportunities for temporary absences, are released earlier and are more likely to receive a discretionary release (day parole or full parole). They are also more likely to be successful following release to the community. Based on these outcomes, it would appear that the designation of high reintegration potential is associated with better access to correctional resources and earlier release from prison to serve the balance of the sentence in the community suggesting that offenders from this group are proceeding as expected through their correctional trajectories.

As noted earlier, reintegration potential is derived from a review of three assessment tools. For Non-Aboriginal males, the Custody Rating Scale (CRS), the Statistical Information on Recidivism (SIR) scale and the Static Factor Assessment provide the input for determining RP. For the other three groups in this report, Aboriginal men, non-Aboriginal women and Aboriginal women, the SIR is replaced by the results of the Dynamic Factor Assessment (DFIA). Offenders identified as being high RP are considered at lower risk to re-offend and most likely to be eligible for early release. The identification of high RP offenders should facilitate preparation of offenders for early, safe release, but many factors (institutional behaviour, progress on the correctional plan, etc.) can negatively impact the possibility of an offender's release. As the results of the study indicate, not everyone who is identified as high reintegration potential is actually released early, nor do they all succeed after they are released. The specific hypotheses outlined in the introduction are addressed in the following section.

Analysis of admission profiles revealed expected trends reflective of the offender's RP level classification. First, it was hypothesized that high RP offenders should be serving shorter aggregate sentences, and should be less likely than their medium and low RP counterparts to be admitted with violent offences. This was in fact found to be the case. For both non-Aboriginal males and Aboriginal males, offenders in the high RP group were admitted with significantly shorter sentence lengths compared to the other two RP groups. While there were no significant

differences in sentence lengths between the three RP groups for non-Aboriginal women offenders, for Aboriginal women, offenders in the high RP group were admitted with significantly shorter sentence lengths than offenders in the low RP group. Further, offenders with a high RP from all four study groups were significantly more likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to be admitted with a drug offence and were significantly less likely to be admitted with a violent offence. These findings are not surprising given that the seriousness of the offence committed by the offender, determined by offence type and reflected in sentence length, is an important factor in the risk scales that are used in the calculation of reintegration potential (CSC, 2010a).

In terms of institutional program participation, it was hypothesized that high RP offenders should require fewer institutional correctional and education programs and should participate in fewer employment placements than their medium and low RP counterparts. Only the high RP non-Aboriginal women offender group was significantly less likely than the medium RP group to start and complete institutional correctional programming. In addition, the percentage of offenders with a high RP enrolled in programs was high (between 45% and 73%). However, as demonstrated by the data, rates of program participation were consistent with need levels identified in the Dynamic Factor Identification and Analysis. For example, at least one quarter to two thirds of all four of the high RP study groups were identified as having considerable need in the area of substance abuse and one fifth to one third of all four of the high RP study groups were identified as having considerable need in the area of personal/emotional orientation. These results suggest that the expectation that high RP offenders do not require programs needs to be revised within the definitions of the RP groups.

High engagement was particularly prominent for institutional education programs where between 62% and 78% of offenders with a high RP participated in these programs. This finding may be explained in part by the baseline education levels of offenders. In particular, the lack of significant mean differences found between RP level groups for Aboriginal offenders in the average number of days enrolled in institutional educational programs may be due to the high need for education programs for all RP levels – all three groups had high percentages of offenders with 'less than grade 8', 'less than grade 10' and 'no high school diploma' education levels.

Interestingly, there was no difference in number of days in institutional or CORCAN

employment for three of the four study groups. Both high RP Aboriginal groups, as well as non-Aboriginal women did not differ significantly in this regard when compared to offenders with a medium RP. However, non-Aboriginal male offenders with a high RP were employed for significantly fewer days than their medium and low RP counterparts, and non-Aboriginal women offenders were employed for significantly fewer days than their low RP counterparts, when time served in the institution was taken into account. These findings may be explained by the offenders' relative need for employment training. The medium and low RP non-Aboriginal male groups, the low RP non-Aboriginal women and all three RP level groups of Aboriginal offenders had high percentages of offenders who were unemployed or who had unstable job employment prior to incarceration, suggesting that they had more need for, and were more likely to enrol in institutional and CORCAN employment placements.

For the purposes of this study, institutional adjustment was measured by involvement in institutional incidents, changes in security level and participation in escorted and unescorted temporary absences. It was hypothesized that high RP offenders should have fewer institutional incidents than their medium and low RP counterparts. As expected, both high RP non-Aboriginal groups were found to be less likely to be the instigator/associate of an institutional incident when compared to offenders with a medium RP. However, neither of the high RP Aboriginal groups differed significantly from their low RP counterparts when compared on involvement in incidents. While the non-significant findings may be attributed to small sample size for the Aboriginal women group, in the case of the male group, this finding may be explained in part by overall institutional adjustment issues common to Aboriginal offenders and demonstrated in their more frequent involvement in institutional incidents as a group (Gobeil, 2009; Gotschall, in press).

It was also believed that high RP offenders should be more likely to be released from a minimum security penitentiary than their medium and low RP counterparts. As would be anticipated, all groups of offenders with a high RP were more likely than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP to be admitted and released at minimum security. Nevertheless, a high percentage of offenders with a high RP, in the range of 47% to 54%, were admitted at medium security for most of the study groups. The only exception was for non-Aboriginal women where only 18% were classified as medium security on admission. As was discussed, a variety of factors including an offender's risk profile and offence history have an

impact on institutional security level placement at admission. For example, when compared to their high RP counterparts admitted at minimum security, the high RP group admitted at medium security had higher risk and need profiles, had more offenders admitted with a violent offence and had more offenders with a history of previous offences. The high rate of admissions to medium security suggests that the high RP group is over-inclusive, containing offenders who may, in fact, have lower reintegration potential. Given this finding, it may be necessary to adjust the algorithm that assigns offenders to level of reintegration potential.

Institutional adjustment is also indirectly reflected in the opportunities for absences from the institution. The safe reintegration of offenders encompasses a broad range of decisions including granting offenders temporary absences from the institution which can significantly affect their movement through their sentence (Motiuk & Nafekh, 1999). It was hypothesized that high RP offenders should have earlier access to escorted and unescorted temporary absences (ETAs and UTAs), representing the first step to early release on day parole or full parole, than their medium and low RP counterparts. The results indicated that for three study groups (the exception being Aboriginal women), offenders with a high RP participated in their first ETA and UTA at an earlier date than offenders with medium and low RPs. On average, offenders with a high RP participated in their first ETA after serving between 17% and 26% of their sentence, compared to 21% and 31% for offenders with a medium RP and 24% and 43% for offenders with a low RP. Offenders with a high RP participated in their first UTA after serving between 29% and 37% of their sentence, compared to 32% and 39% for offenders with a medium RP and 37% and 43% for offenders with a low RP. By participating in ETAs and UTAs, offenders with a high RP are provided with opportunities to maintain family and community ties and avail themselves of rehabilitative, personal and cultural activities, in turn positively impacting their correctional experience and promoting their successful reintegration into the community (CSC, 2010b).

Finally analysis of release profiles also revealed expected trends reflective of the offender's RP level classification. It was hypothesized that high RP offenders should be more likely to be granted early discretionary releases (day parole or full parole) than their medium and low RP counterparts, and few high RP offenders should be released at their statutory release dates. With respect to the type of release received first, in general for all four study groups, offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely to be granted day parole or full parole

than offenders with a medium RP and those with a low RP. One exception was for the Aboriginal women group where there was no significant difference between offenders with a high RP and those with a medium RP on day parole and full parole. Additionally, all four high RP study groups were significantly less likely to experience statutory release as their first release type compared to the medium and low RP groups.

The decision for discretionary release (day parole and full parole) is made by an independent body, the Parole Board of Canada, and the offender must demonstrate to the Board that he or she is ready to be released and CSC must be confident that it can manage the offender safely in the community. Ideally, most offenders with a high RP would be released first on day or full parole – for 92% of the high RP non-Aboriginal women offenders and 89% of the high RP Aboriginal women offenders this was the case – but in fact almost one third of non-Aboriginal male offenders (30%) and Aboriginal male offenders (31%) with a high RP were released to community supervision at their statutory release date. Offenders in these two groups released at their statutory release date had higher risk and need profiles, were more likely to have a current violent offence, a history of previous offences and to have participated in institutional incidents than their high RP counterparts granted discretionary release. Again, these results suggest the RP measure may be misclassifying a significant percentage of offenders as being high RP, when, in fact, their characteristics and subsequent institutional behaviour would suggest they are moderate or low RP.

It was also hypothesized that high RP offenders should serve a shorter percentage of their sentence before their first release than their medium and low RP counterparts. Results indicated that offenders with a high RP from all four study groups served a significantly smaller percentage of their sentence before their first release than did offenders with medium and low RPs; between 28% and 41% for offenders with a high RP, compared to between 41% and 51% for offenders with a medium RP and 49% and 68% for offenders with a low RP.

Finally, it was hypothesized that high RP offenders should remain in the community longer and should be less likely to be returned to custody for any reason (revocation or new offence) than their medium and low RP counterparts. Overall for all four subgroups, offenders with a medium RP and offenders with a low RP were found to return to custody more quickly than did offenders with a high RP, with the average high RP offender failing after between eight and a half and twelve and a half months, as compared to offenders with a medium RP (between

nine and nine and a half months) and offenders with a low RP (between six and a half and ten and a half months). One exception was for the Aboriginal women group where offenders with a medium RP were found to return to custody more slowly than offenders in the other two RP groups.

Further, the results demonstrated that offenders with a high RP did in fact differ significantly from their medium and low RP counterparts in their release outcomes. Survival analyses showed that for all four study groups, offenders with a high RP were significantly more likely to be successful on release, and significantly less likely to experience a revocation or a new offence upon release than their medium and low RP counterparts. By the time the three groups had been on release for two years, between 28% and 47% of the high RP group had experienced a failure on release compared to between 51% and 62% of the medium RP group, and between 49% and 74% of the low RP group.

Although the offenders with a high RP were more likely to be successful upon release, one finding deserves further attention. The success rates for Aboriginal males (50%) and women (55%) were substantially lower than for the non-Aboriginal males (67%) and women (68%). This finding can be explained in part by the increased levels of criminal history risk and criminogenic need for this population compared to the non-Aboriginal population. This finding is consistent with those summarized in the Correctional Service of Canada's plans and priorities (2010-2011) and underscores the importance of initiatives aiming to narrow the gap in correctional outcomes for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal offenders.

Limitations

The major limitation to the study may be the selection of the assessment tool used to identify the group of lower risk offenders. While the reintegration potential measure makes use of three different standardized assessment instruments, and combines these into a single measure, it may be that the final result is not doing an effective job of identifying the lower risk offenders. In fact, the scoring algorithm results in offenders rated as medium risk on the three measures to be identified as high reintegration potential. In addition, for the male non-Aboriginal offenders, the scoring algorithm does not use a measure of dynamic risk, relying instead on two separate measure of static risk. For the other three study groups, dynamic risk is a part of the scoring algorithm. Additional analyses may be needed to adjust the scoring algorithm for reintegration

potential to ensure it more accurately identifies the groups who are most likely to succeed.

Further, small sample sizes (for example, for the Aboriginal women study group) and missing data may have influenced the significance of some of the results. Particularly in analyses where time served in the institution was held constant, non-significant findings may have been a reflection of missing time data for a portion of offenders rather than actual lack of significant differences. Replicating this study with a larger cohort of offenders would be beneficial.

As with most studies that utilize administrative data, this study was only able to use variables that were available in the Offender Management System. While the use of administrative data sets allows for large numbers of cases to be studied, it does restrict the types of variables that can be used in an analysis. Administrative databases also contain errors that result from the entry of information within an operational setting; however, it is assumed that these types of errors are consistent for all groups. In addition, most of the measures used in the study are ones that impact an offender's release and movement through the correctional system and generally, these data are the most accurate with both administrators and offenders ensuring their accuracy.

Conclusions

While the data indicate that offenders with a high RP were accessing resources that would assist with their early safe release, there is evidence that some high RP offenders are not released early and are not accessing opportunities that would assist them in earning early release. For example, a reasonably high percentage of the high reintegration potential offenders did not get released from minimum security and, were only released at their statutory release date. It is likely that other security assessments prevented their movement to minimum security, but the result does suggest that there is a need to consider interventions that would assist in having them moved safely to minimum security where there is a greater probability of early safe release.

The analyses also suggest that there are inconsistencies between the definitions of the levels of reintegration potential and the actual outcomes for these offenders (see Method section for full definitions). For example, in the definition of offenders rated as high reintegration potential it is expected that these offenders will not participate in institutional correctional programs, yet, they do take these programs and have high need in the areas of programming in which they participate. In addition, they participate at high rates in education and employment

programs. Either the definitions of the levels should be changed so high reintegration potential offenders are expected to take programs, or the algorithm that provides the rating should be changed to lower the level of risk used to define high reintegration potential. Based on the results of the study, it is likely that both options should be pursued. The high level of need in some dynamic risk areas, supports the argument that many high reintegration potential offenders do require programs. The definition should be adjusted to reflect this fact. The addition of a dynamic risk measure to reintegration potential for non-Aboriginal males might provide some correction for this contradiction, but it is unlikely to be sufficient to eliminate the need for a change to the definition.   In addition, given that approximately 50% of the non-Aboriginal male population is classified as high reintegration potential, it is likely that the algorithm for scoring the RP should be adjusted to take account of new realities within the correctional system. Research has shown that the institutional population has become higher risk and more complex over the past ten years (CSC, 2009). Given the changes in the offender population, adjust the scoring for reintegration potential might reduce the number of offenders who are being identified as high RP, and make this classification more consistent with expectations (early, successful release) for low risk offenders.

As noted in the introduction, early identification of lower risk offenders can assist correctional organizations in preparing offenders for early safe release. Early release reduces the burden on crowded prison systems (including access to institutional programming), ensures correctional mandates for least restrictive custody are met, and reduces expenses, as community supervision is less costly than incarceration.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Demographic Summaries for Entire Sample, Male, and Women Offenders

Variable	All	Male Offenders	Women Offenders
RP	*n*=21,746	*n*=20,546	*n*=1,200
Low	41	40	55
Medium	27	27	25
High	33	34	21
Region	*n*=21,746	*n*=20,546	*n*=1,200
Ontario	27	27	31
Quebec	22	22	14
Prairies	29	29	33
Pacific	11	11	9
Atlantic	12	11	12
Race	*n*=21,634	*n*=20,453	*n*=1,181
Caucasian	68	69	58
Aboriginal	19	18	27
African-Canadian	7	7	9
South/South East Asian	2	2	1
Other	2	2	4
Arab/West Asian	<1	<1	<1
Chinese	<1	<1	<1
Latin American	<1	<1	<1
Age at Admission	*n*=21,746	*n*=20,546	*n*=1,200
Mean (*SD*)	34 (*11*)	34 (*11*)	34 (*11*)
Sentence Length (Days)	*n*=21,006	*n*=19,842	*n*=1,164
Mean (*SD*)	1,304 (*790*)	1,315 (*800*)	1,128 (*537*)

Appendix B: Summary of Results

	High RP Offenders			
	Non-Aboriginal Males	Aboriginal Males	Non-Aboriginal Women	Aboriginal Women
Age at Admission (Years)	36	31	36	32
Mean Aggregate Sentence Length (Days)	1,251	1,131	1,121	1,011
Mean Days to First ETA	371	253	190	176
Mean Days to First UTA	527	418	351	444
Mean Percentage of Sentence Served Prior to First				
Release	41	41	29	33
Day Parole	29	30	24	28
Full Parole	38	39	36	38
Percentage of Failure on Release by First Release Type				
Discretionary Release	29	45	27	42
Statutory Release	31	51	34	46
Overall	30	46	28	42
Unsuccessful First Release Timelines				
Time to Failure (Months)	11.57	10.48	12.26	8.76
Failure at One Year Post-Release (%)	22	36	21	39
Failure at Two Years Post-Release (%)	30	47	28	43
Hazard Ratio for Re-Offending				
High RP vs. Medium RP	2.39	1.52	2.23	1.68
High RP vs. Low RP	3.37	1.93	1.96	2.41

	High RP Offenders			
Compared to Medium RP	**Non-Aboriginal Males**	**Aboriginal Males**	**Non-Aboriginal Women**	**Aboriginal Women**
Age at Admission	Older at admission.	n.s.	Older at admission.	n.s.
Sentence Length	Shorter sentence length.	Shorter sentence length.	n.s.	n.s.
Admission Offence	More likely to be admitted with a drug offence. Less likely to be admitted with violent, property and other non-violent offences.	More likely to be admitted with a drug offence. Less likely to be admitted with violent and property offences.	More likely to be admitted with a drug offence. Less likely to be admitted with violent, property and other non-violent offences.	More likely to be admitted with a drug offence. Less likely to be admitted with a violent offence.
Institutional Program Participation	n.s.	n.s.	Less likely to start and complete programs.	n.s.
Education Program	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Institutional Employment	Employed for fewer days.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Institutional Incidents	Less likely to be the instigator/associate of an incident.	n.s.	Less likely to be the instigator/associate of an incident.	n.s.
Change in Security Level	More likely to be admitted and released at minimum security. Less likely to be admitted and released at medium or maximum security.	More likely to be admitted and released at minimum security. Less likely to be admitted at medium and released at medium or maximum security.	More likely to be admitted and released at minimum security. Less likely to be admitted and released at medium security.	More likely to be admitted and released at minimum security. Less likely to be admitted and released at medium security.
ETAs and UTAs	More likely to participate in ETAs and UTAs.	More likely to participate in ETAs and UTAs.	n.s.	n.s.
First Release Type	More likely to have day or full parole as first release. Less likely to have statutory release or warrant expiry as first release.	More likely to have day or full parole as first release. Less likely to have statutory release or warrant expiry as first release.	More likely to have day or full parole as first release. Less likely to have statutory release as first release.	Less likely to have statutory release as first release.
Sentence Served Prior to First Release	Served shorter percentage of sentence.	Served shorter percentage of sentence.	Served shorter percentage of sentence.	Served shorter percentage of sentence.
Community Employment	-	n.s.	-	-
Release Outcome	More likely to be successful on first release. Less likely to experience revocation or new offence.	More likely to be successful on first release. Less likely to experience revocation or new offence.	More likely to be successful on first release. Less likely to experience revocation or new offence.	More likely to be successful on first release. Less likely to experience revocation or new offence.

Compared to Low RP	High RP Offenders			
	Non-Aboriginal Males	Aboriginal Males	Non-Aboriginal Women	Aboriginal Women
Age at Admission	Older at admission.	n.s.	Older at admission.	n.s.
Sentence Length	Shorter sentence length.	Shorter sentence length.	n.s.	Shorter sentence length.
Admission Offence	More likely to be admitted with a drug offence. Less likely to be admitted with violent, property and other non-violent offences.	More likely to be admitted with a drug offence. Less likely to be admitted with a violent offence.	More likely to be admitted with a drug offence. Less likely to be admitted with a violent offence.	More likely to be admitted with a drug offence. Less likely to be admitted with a violent offence.
Institutional Correctional Program Participation	More likely to complete programs.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.
Education Program	Enrolled for more days.	n.s.	Enrolled for fewer days.	n.s.
Institutional Employment	Employed for fewer days.	n.s.	Employed for fewer days.	n.s.
Institutional Incidents	Less likely to be the instigator/associate and victim of an incident.	Less likely to be the instigator/associate of an incident.	Less likely to be the instigator/associate of an incident.	n.s.
Change in Security Level	More likely to be admitted and released at minimum security. Less likely to be admitted and released at medium or maximum security.	More likely to be admitted and released at minimum security. Less likely to be admitted and released at medium or maximum security.	More likely to be admitted and released at minimum security. Less likely to be admitted and released at medium or maximum security.	More likely to be admitted and released at minimum security. Less likely to be admitted and released at medium or maximum security.
ETAs and UTAs	More likely to participate in ETAs and UTAs.	More likely to participate in ETAs and UTAs.	More likely to participate in ETAs.	More likely to participate in UTAs.
First Release Type	More likely to have day or full parole as first release. Less likely to have statutory release or warrant expiry as first release.	More likely to have day or full parole as first release. Less likely to have statutory release or warrant expiry as first release.	More likely to have day parole as first release. Less likely to have statutory release or warrant expiry as first release.	More likely to have day parole as first release. Less likely to have statutory release or warrant expiry as first release.
Sentence Served Prior to First Release	Served shorter percentage of sentence.	Served shorter percentage of sentence.	Served shorter percentage of sentence.	Served shorter percentage of sentence.
Community Employment	-	n.s.	-	-
Release Outcome	More likely to be successful on first release. Less likely to experience revocation or new offence.	More likely to be successful on first release. Less likely to experience revocation or new offence.	More likely to be successful on first release. Less likely to experience revocation or new offence.	More likely to be successful on first release. Less likely to experience revocation or new offence.