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Juristat

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics



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Returning to Correctional Services after release: A profile of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults involved in Saskatchewan Corrections from 1999/00 to 2003/04

by Sara Johnson

Highlights

- Approximately 25,000 people completed at least one continuous period of supervision (*involvement*) in Saskatchewan adult correctional services between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2004.
- Aboriginal adults comprised 57% of those involved in a correctional service compared to 10% of the Saskatchewan adult population.
- In Saskatchewan, 5.2% of Aboriginal adults were involved in correctional services compared to 0.3% of non-Aboriginal adults.
- Women represented almost double the proportion of the Aboriginal correctional population (19%) as the non-Aboriginal correctional population (10%) in Saskatchewan.
- Aboriginal persons supervised by Saskatchewan correctional services are younger, have a lower level of education and have poorer employment histories than non-Aboriginal persons.
- Among the almost 5,500 person released from correctional services between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000, 22% returned within one year, 34% within two years, 41% within three years, and 45% within four years.
- The proportion of persons involved four years after release differed between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups, with 57% of Aboriginal persons returning versus 28% of non-Aboriginal persons.
- Aboriginal adults were also more likely to have a larger number of re-involvements in the Saskatchewan correctional system than non-Aboriginal persons: they were three times more likely to have three re-involvements (9% versus 3%) and five times more likely to be re-involved four or more times (11% versus 2%).
- Rates of re-involvement in correctional services increased more rapidly for Aboriginal persons than non-Aboriginal persons, with 29% of Aboriginal adults versus 13% of non-Aboriginal adults returning during the first twelve months following release
- Characteristics found to be related to re-involvement included gender, age, nature of the involvement (community only, custody only, community and custody), number of criminogenic needs¹ identified, most serious offence type and number of previous correctional involvements.
- Approximately 25% of all persons released in any one year were returned to correctional supervision within one year of release. This rate was found to be similar from year-to-year across four years.

1. Criminogenic needs refer to needs or problems that are more directly related to offending than others.



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Introduction

Background

According to the 2001 census, among all provinces in Canada, Saskatchewan has one of the largest proportionate representations of Aboriginal people - 10% of the adult population.² Moreover, Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan are significantly over-represented in the criminal justice system (Quann and Trevethan, 2000; Johnson, 2004). The representation of Aboriginal people has been increasing in the Saskatchewan correctional system since the early 1980's. For example, while Aboriginal people represented 60% of sentenced custody and 38% of probation admissions in 1980/81, they represented 78% and 65% respectively in 2003/04.³ This situation is likely to persist or worsen. According to the 2001 census, young people under the age of 19 comprise half of the Aboriginal population compared to just a quarter of the non-Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan. As a result, there will be an increasingly large proportion of Aboriginal people in the 'at-risk' to commit crime age cohorts of the late teens and early 20's in upcoming years.

The social circumstances and the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the Canadian criminal justice system have been repeatedly identified as social and criminal justice issues by numerous reports, commissions and inquiries (e.g. Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996; the Donald Marshall Inquiry, Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall Jr., Prosecution, 1989; Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba, 1991; the Cawsey Commission of Alberta, Department of Justice Alberta, 1991; Saskatchewan Indian Justice Reviews, Patricia Linn, 1992; Amnesty International, 2004). As recently as 2004, the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform reaffirmed the magnitude of this problem in Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan, 2004).

Given the level of over-representation of Aboriginal people in the Saskatchewan correctional system, and the increasingly larger 'at-risk' age cohort, developing a better understanding of criminal pathways and recidivism, particularly as it pertains to Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system, is especially important.

Current report

This *Juristat* examines the case histories and correctional outcomes of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons under provincial supervision in adult correctional services in Saskatchewan in the years 1999/00 through 2003/04. This is the first report analyzing data from the new Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS). This *Juristat* begins by describing the delivery of correctional services in Canada, and in particular Saskatchewan, and provides a discussion of the correlates of criminal behaviour. This is followed by a description of the data sources and methodologies employed in this report. Characteristics of persons supervised under the adult provincial correctional system in Saskatchewan between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2004, are explored, as well as the nature of their involvement in the adult correctional system in Saskatchewan. Lastly, re-involvement profiles of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons in the Saskatchewan correctional system and the factors related to re-involvement are examined.

Correlates of criminal conduct

Previous research has determined that several factors are correlated with offending and re-offending. These factors include demographic factors such as age (being young), sex (being male) and belonging to a disadvantaged minority group (McWhinnie & Andrews, 1997). However, the impact of these factors may be reduced substantially by paying more attention to the major criminogenic risk factors cited in the literature (see text box 5 for more information). These major risk factors include:

2. According to the 2001 census, 11% of the adult population in Manitoba was Aboriginal.
3. Statistics Canada, Adult Correctional Services Survey.

Text box 1: The delivery of correctional services in Canada

The correctional system in Canada is divided between services provided to adults, who are generally 18 years of age or older, and youth, who are between the ages of 12 and 17 at the time of the commission or alleged commission of an offence. Youth correctional services are provided solely by the provinces and territories. Adult offenders serving two years or more in prison (penitentiary) are the responsibility of the Correctional Service of Canada, an agency of the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada. Provincial and territorial governments are responsible for adult offenders serving custodial sentences of less than two years, as well as those sentenced to probation, conditional sentences, or other community sentences, and persons being held in pre-trial detention (remand) or temporary detention, or being managed under bail supervision or fine option programs. This *Juristat* profiles adults under the jurisdiction of provincial correctional services in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan Corrections and Public Safety is the department providing correctional services in Saskatchewan. The Adult Corrections Division is responsible for care, control and supervision of adult offenders. Services provided by the Adult Corrections Division are delivered through two branches: the Community Operations Branch and the Institutional Operations Branch.⁴ Community correctional services are organized into six regions. Institutional operations exist in four major correctional centres (Pine Grove Correctional Centre, Prince Albert Provincial Correctional Centre, Regina Provincial Correctional Centre, Saskatoon Provincial Correctional Centre), and seven reduced-custody facilities (Battleford and Buffalo Narrows Community Correctional Centres, Besnard Lake Camp and Saskatoon Urban Camp, and, community training residences in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert). Contracts with the Elizabeth Fry Society (Saskatoon women's community training residence) and the Prince Albert Grand Council (Healing Lodge) also allow for reduced-custody services to be provided. Community and institutional Northern services are administered through the North West Community Operations office in North Battleford and sub-offices in Meadow Lake, Buffalo Narrows and La Loche, as well as the North East Community Operations office located in Prince Albert and sub-offices in Melfort, Lorange and Creighton.

- Personal attitudes, values and beliefs that are supportive of crime (i.e., antisocial attitudes and cognitions)
- Social support for criminal activities (i.e., antisocial associates)
- Temperament/personality (i.e., antisocial personality patterns)
- Personal history of antisocial behaviour
- Family or marital problems
- Educational or vocational difficulties
- Other criminogenic need areas such as generalized indifference to the opinion of others, alcohol and drug abuse, the aimless use of leisure time, and a disorganized lifestyle
- Family of origin problems, such as family history of criminality or antisocial attitudes (McWhinnie & Andrews, 1997, p. 4)

In examining the re-involvement outcomes of persons involved in correctional services, several of these risk factors will be examined in this report. Factors examined include gender, age, Aboriginal identity, and criminogenic needs such as substance abuse, employment, attitude, social interaction, family/marital, and personal/emotional needs.

Data sources and methods

The Integrated Correctional Services Survey

The Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) is a person-based survey that is currently being implemented by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) in jurisdictions across Canada. The ICSS represents the first effort by the CCJS to collect detailed data pertaining to the delivery of both youth and adult correctional services in Canada. These microdata are collected through three distinct records organized by (1) person (e.g., socio-demographic characteristics such as age, sex, Aboriginal identity, etc.); (2) legal status such as sentenced custody, remand, probation and the characteristics of the status (e.g., aggregate sentence length, convicted offences, etc.); and, (3) events that pertain to the supervision (e.g., escapes, temporary absence, conditions of supervision, breaches of probation, parole and conditional sentences, rehabilitation programs, etc.).

Through an annual data extraction process in jurisdictions reporting to the survey, the ICSS database is updated with any new correctional supervision activity that occurred over the survey year. The result is the creation of a longitudinal database of the case histories of all persons involved in correctional services. These case histories can be examined in relation to concepts such as offence and supervision histories, breaches of conditional release, the length of time between admissions as well as the characteristics of involved persons, such as Aboriginal identity, education, etc. In addition, the survey collects information on important indicators such as the assessment of offender needs, conditions attached to conditional releases, probation and conditional sentences, and security concerns associated with offenders under correctional supervision.

This *Juristat* is based on five years of data from Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) for Saskatchewan for the years 1999/00 to 2003/04. These data comprise all persons involved in correctional services at any time during this five year period from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2004, and include persons who started involvement prior to April 1, 1999 but whose involvement continued beyond this date, as well as persons whose involvement extended beyond March 31, 2004, but commenced prior to this date. The correctional service history prior to or following involvements contained during these years is not included in the database. That is, data on prior correctional involvements, including those of other administrative jurisdictions, that ended prior to April 1, 1999 are not available, nor are those that began after March 31, 2004. Therefore, all references to the first admission to correctional involvement only pertain to involvements during this time frame that were supervised directly by the provincial correctional authority in Saskatchewan.

Follow-up analyses excluded cases where remand, bail supervision and/or some types of temporary detention (police lock-up, immigration hold, or other types of holds such as for material witnesses) were the only types of correctional services the individual experienced during the release cohort period

4. Saskatchewan Corrections and Public Safety. *2004-05 Saskatchewan Provincial Budget – Performance Plan*. Regina, Saskatchewan. Adresse électronique: www.cps.gov.sk.ca.

examined. That is, persons who only participated in these correctional service types during their correctional involvement were excluded from the release cohort; however, persons whose involvement included remand, bail supervision and/or certain temporary detention statuses accompanied by another type of correctional service were included. These exclusions were made in order to minimize the likelihood that re-involvements detected were not, in fact, regarding the same matter for which an offender was initially involved. Re-involvements on remand were included.

Involvement as a unit of measure

The ICSS assembles correctional information, which is organized according to *involvements*, defined as a continuous period of direct supervision within a specific jurisdiction's correctional system. This continuous period of time may include more than one type of correctional service (e.g., sentenced custody, conditional sentence, probation, etc.) as long as there are no breaks in supervision (see Text box 4 for more specific information). This unit of measure was chosen for a number of reasons. First of all, a 'case' in the correctional system is a person-based measure that may include a wide array of sequential or simultaneous correctional activities that are subject to direct supervision within the correctional system. Each correctional involvement has a discrete beginning, characterized by the identifiable start of supervision by the provincial authority, and an end date, as represented by the termination of all supervision obligations. Furthermore, since jurisdictional automated case-management systems are organized in this manner, assembling these data into involvements is appropriate for ICSS microdata.

Text box 2: Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) processing

The ICSS survey collects detailed information about the case histories of persons under direct supervision of provincial and federal correctional authorities. Important demographic and correctional characteristics (e.g., age, sex, Aboriginal identity, criminogenic needs, etc.) are recorded together with key supervision information (e.g., sentence type, supervision start- and end-dates, facility information, aggregate time served, breaches of conditions, etc.). Individual experiences within their supervision histories are systematically tabulated into units of count that are based on aggregated uninterrupted statuses of the same type (e.g., aggregated sentenced custody, aggregated remand, aggregated probation, etc.). Note also that offenders may be serving more than one status at the same time. For example:

Assume that an individual is arrested and held in custodial remand. After 7 days of court appearances wherein the individual was returned daily to remand custody, the individual receives a 9-month jail term, to be followed by one year of probation. All of these are supervised and there are no breaks in supervision. Further, at a later date, the individual returns to court and receives an additional 9 months of sentenced custody, which commences 3 months after the first term has begun. At that time, the individual also receives another six months of probation, to run consecutively to the first term. The ICSS would count the following according to the year in which the aggregated status commenced:

- 1 involvement
- 1 remand, duration of 7 days;
- 1 provincial jail term of 12 months (9 months plus 9 months concurrent from second set of charges, which overlap by 6 months);
- 18 months of probation (12 months plus additional 6 months consecutive from second set of charges)

If the same individual completes all of these correctional supervision obligations and is 'released' from correctional supervision, but is subsequently returned after being sentenced due to new charges, a new *involvement* and associated records would be generated.

By extension, a correctional re-involvement is counted when an individual returns to correctional supervision after having fully completed a previous set of supervised obligations.⁵ Furthermore, there may be more than one re-involvement following the initial release. Since an important element of a follow-up period is its duration, the re-involvement rate and its inverse – the rate of not being re-involved are examined in the current study using two different methodologies, *survival analysis* and *fixed follow-up analysis*. Both of these methodologies take the time at risk into consideration. More information on both techniques is provided later in this Juristat. In this report, the first completed involvement from which persons are followed is referred to as the *index involvement*. The date when this involvement ended is referred to as the *index release*.

Involvement in correctional services provides an indication of the utilization of correctional service resources, such as bed spaces occupied in a correctional institution or the number of persons supervised by parole/probation officers. Re-involvement, while providing an indication of recidivism (see Text box 3), more accurately is a measure of correctional utilization among those who were previously under supervision in correctional services.

Statistical methods of examining re-involvement

Survival analysis

Survival analysis is an effective statistical technique to assess the amount of time until a specified event (e.g., re-involvement in any correctional program) occurs while controlling for differences in follow-up periods. Survival analysis was designed for use with longitudinal data regarding the occurrence of events, and determines both whether or not, and when an event has occurred (Allison, 1995). Survival analysis is most often applied to the study of deaths and was originally designed for that purpose, which explains its name (Allison, 1995). However, survival analysis is extremely useful for studying many different kinds of events in both the social and natural sciences. Survival analysis focuses on the time interval between two events or survival time (Wright, 2000).

Survival analysis, using the Kaplan-Meier procedure, is employed in this study. The Kaplan-Meier procedure is the most widely used method for estimating survivor functions⁶, when censoring is present (Allison, 1995). This technique can be thought of as an 'enhanced' frequency distribution table, where the distribution of survival times is divided into a certain number of time intervals. For each interval, the number and proportion of cases that entered the respective interval 'alive' (i.e., number not re-involved), the number and proportion of cases that failed in the respective interval (i.e., number re-

5. It should be noted that new offences committed and dealt within the court system while a person is already under the supervision of correctional services is not considered a correctional 're-involvement' in this study since the additional sentence would be incorporated within the existing sentence.
6. The cumulative proportion surviving is the cumulative proportion of cases surviving up to the respective interval. Since the probabilities of survival is assumed to be independent across the intervals, this probability is computed by multiplying out the probabilities of survival across all previous intervals. The resulting function is also called the survivorship or survival function (StatSoft Inc., accessed 2004).

Text box 3: Measuring recidivism

One of the most common and sought-after performance indicators in the criminal justice system is recidivism following release from correctional services. McWhinnie and Andrews (1997) note that “in the criminal justice system, recidivism means re-offending, that is, a return to (or “falling back” into) criminal behaviour, following previous contact with the criminal justice system” (p. 11). The measurement of recidivism typically takes the form of a proportion or percentage of arrests, convictions or incarcerations (McWhinnie & Andrews, 1997).

Two types of designs have been employed in measuring recidivism: longitudinal and cross-sectional. Cross-sectional designs analyze offenders' criminal pasts as of a specific point in time, while a longitudinal design examines criminal futures, that is, individual behavioural outcomes. Furthermore, longitudinal studies may be retrospective or prospective. A retrospective longitudinal study identifies a cohort of offenders from a prior time period (for example, five years prior to the beginning of the follow-up period) and then follows them from the past to the present examining evidence of offending (McWhinnie & Andrews, 1997). Conversely, a prospective longitudinal design identifies a cohort of offenders in the current year and then follows the cohort for one or more years. A retrospective longitudinal design is employed in this report.

While there are several methods for examining recidivism, one appropriate method is to examine the rate at which persons released from correctional involvement return to criminal behaviour regardless of whether crime is detected (e.g., police reports) or undetected (e.g., self-reported criminal behaviour). The ICSS is unable to detect offenders who commit crimes, are processed by police and the courts, but where the offence does not result in an admission to a correctional service such as probation, sentenced custody or conditional sentence. Re-involvement in correctional services, the outcome measure used

in this study, is notionally similar to recidivism but is not exclusively a measure of recidivism. This is due to several factors, such as:

- Date of offence is not available,⁷ a pure measure of recidivism requires that the date of offence be known in order to determine the chronological order of offences. That is, one could not know that a subsequent correctional admission was actually the result of a subsequent offence without the date of offence being known. For example, an offender may be under a variety of concurrent and consecutive dispositions that may or may not be related to each other and the offender may, at the same time, commit new offences or be charged with previously occurring offences.
- Offences occurring during an involvement cannot be identified due to the unavailability of date of offence as well as the aggregated nature of correctional data. For example, an offender may be sentenced to probation, reoffend while on probation and receive an additional period of probation but be counted under the same involvement. These separate occurrences will be aggregated into a single period of probation. This occurs because offenders' movement through the corrections system can be very complex involving numerous events that reflect the processes surrounding the case management of the offender in the correctional system and their ongoing interaction with those of the broader criminal justice system.
- Convictions and sentences which did not bring the offender into contact with the corrections system are not in scope for the ICSS. This can include absolute discharges, unsupervised probation, fines, unsupervised community service orders or restitution orders, as well as offences handled outside the courts through alternative measures or extrajudicial measures, etc.

Some of the limitations of the present study could be addressed in the future through links to police survey data (UCR2) and to court survey records.

involved)⁸, and the number of cases that were lost or censored in the respective interval are computed. Censored data refers to persons who have reached the end of the pre-determined follow-up period but have not failed (i.e., have not become re-involved). This may be because a person never experiences the event in his or her lifetime (e.g., because he or she never returns to provincial correctional supervision in Saskatchewan) or because the event had not occurred as of the end of the follow-up period (e.g., he or she does not return to provincial correctional supervision in Saskatchewan as of the end of the follow-up period). Persons who are censored are removed from the calculation estimating the proportion of subjects who failed by a certain time interval. The amount of censoring increases as the end point of the study approaches and therefore, estimates calculated on the basis of observations late in the study are less stable.⁹

Survival analysis provides a number of benefits. First, it makes it possible to include all cases without regard to length of time they can be followed-up. For the purposes of this study, the most recent data may be used since each year new cases are collected and can be analyzed. Second, it provides a visual examination of the data, showing the rate of failure (i.e., re-involvement) across time, so that groups that fail very quickly after release can be identified and compared to those that fail more slowly and over a longer period of time. Interpretation of survival analysis results generally includes statements regarding the shape of curves, how they compare among study groups, as well as how groups compare on rates of survival and failure at different specified time intervals, and median failure time.

Individuals involved in correctional services were followed from the date at which they were completely released until they were re-involved in any correctional service or until the end of the follow-up period if they were not re-involved, and the time to re-involvement in any correctional service was plotted on a survival curve. The slope of the curve demonstrates the rate of surviving without a re-involvement over time. Steep slopes indicate that many offenders are failing within a relatively short period of time while more gradual slopes demonstrate that re-involvement is more steady and gradual over time. For ease of interpretation of survival analysis results, failure rates (i.e., re-involvement rates) are examined, as opposed to survival rates (i.e., no re-involvement rates), which is the conventional method used in survival analysis. Survival analysis curves are therefore presented using a simple mathematical inverse transformation (i.e., 1 – proportion surviving).

It is also possible to test the null hypothesis that the survivor functions are the same among sub-groups, such as Aboriginal versus non-Aboriginal groups of persons (i.e., that the survivor functions were obtained from the same population). This type of analysis was used throughout this *Juristat*.

7. Date of offence is not available from most correctional services automated case management systems and is therefore not collected by the ICSS.
 8. The proportion failing is computed as the ratio of the number of cases failing in the respective interval, divided by the number of cases at risk in the interval. The number of cases at risk is the number of cases that entered the respective interval alive. Conversely, the proportion surviving is computed as 1 minus the proportion failing.
 9. Large numbers of censored values decrease the equivalent number of subjects exposed (at risk), making the life table estimates less reliable than they would be for the same number of subjects with less censoring (PROPHET StatGuide, accessed 2004).

Fixed follow-up

A second methodology to assess re-involvement in the correctional system is the fixed follow-up method which examines the presence or absence of an event (e.g., a re-involvement in correctional services) for a fixed period of time. That is, persons are followed forward from the date of release from correctional involvement until some fixed period of time after that release to determine whether or not they were re-involved in correctional services.

The advantage of the fixed follow-up method is that it is easily understood. However, to be included in the analysis, subjects must be able to be followed for the full duration stipulated as the follow-up period. In comparison, survival analysis allows subjects with variable follow-up periods to be included, and statistically adjusts accordingly. Survival analysis, though, is a more complex analysis, requiring more extensive explanation of results. In addition, although survival analysis statistically adjusts for time at risk, results later in the follow-up period are less reliable due to censoring (see footnote 9).

Text box 4: Key concepts: 'involvement' and 'legal hold status'

Involvement: A continuous period of involvement in a specific jurisdiction's correctional system. This continuous period may include cases where the legal hold statuses may change (i.e., remand followed by sentenced custody which is followed by probation), however, supervision is continuous. That is, there is no more than one day difference between the end of one status and the beginning of another. The individual must be under direct correctional supervision at any time between 1999/00 and 2003/04 to be included in the database, but the involvement may commence before April 1, 1999 or conclude after March 31, 2004.

Legal hold status: 'Legal hold status' addresses the reason for which a person is involved in correctional services, and includes custody (both sentenced and remand), conditional sentence, probation and other community services as well as various forms of conditional release (parole, statutory release) and fine option programs. Legal hold statuses are collapsed into broader categories for the purpose of this report, and are referred to under the generic categories listed above. For example, an admission to a provincial custody after being sentenced at court would be categorized as a 'sentenced custody' as would a re-admission to provincial custodial supervision due to breach of parole.

Adults involved in correctional services in Saskatchewan

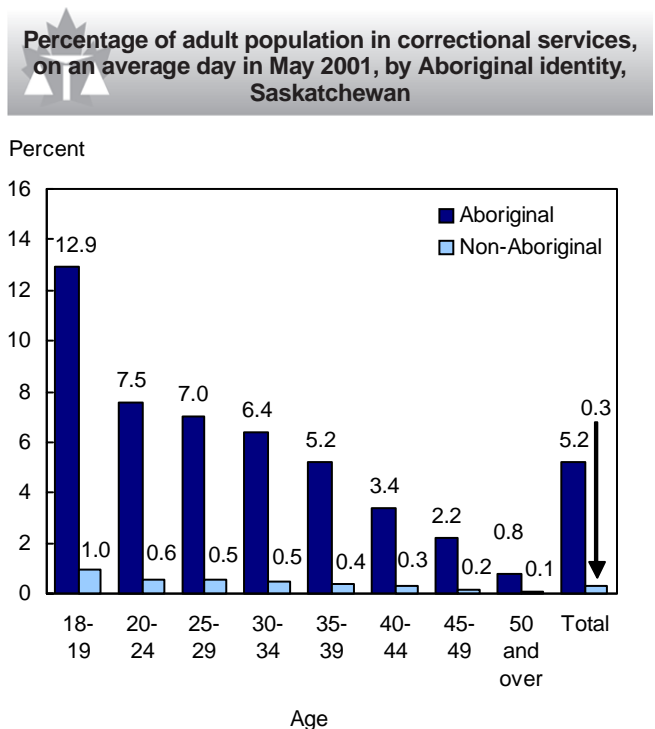
Aboriginal involvement in Saskatchewan correctional services most pronounced for young Aboriginal adults

As noted in the introduction, Aboriginal people are over-represented in the criminal justice system in general, and the correctional system, in particular. Using the ICSS data for Saskatchewan, it was possible to determine the rate of involvement in correctional services in Saskatchewan for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults. For example, there were a total of 5,745 adults supervised in the Saskatchewan provincial correctional system on an average day in May 2001, of which 3,631 were Aboriginal, 1,823 were non-Aboriginal, and 291 were of unknown Aboriginal identity. Calculated as a proportion of the total adult population in Saskatchewan, 5.2% of Aboriginal adults were under correctional supervision (see

Figure 1). In comparison, less than 1% (0.3) of non-Aboriginal adults were involved in the Saskatchewan correctional system. Overall, the proportion of correctional involvement was more than 18 times greater for Aboriginal adults than for non-Aboriginal adults in Saskatchewan.

The proportion of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults involved in corrections in Saskatchewan across age categories is also displayed in Figure 1. As can be seen, the highest proportion was for Aboriginal adults aged 18 to 19 years (13%). This proportion was substantially higher than that observed for non-Aboriginal 18 to 19 year olds (1%). Notably, as age increases, the proportion of persons involved in correctional services decreases for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults. However, the proportionate involvement is consistently higher for Aboriginal adults than non-Aboriginal adults across all age groups.

Figure 1



Sources: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Census of Population, Statistics Canada.

Aboriginal adults more likely to have more than one involvement in correctional services in Saskatchewan

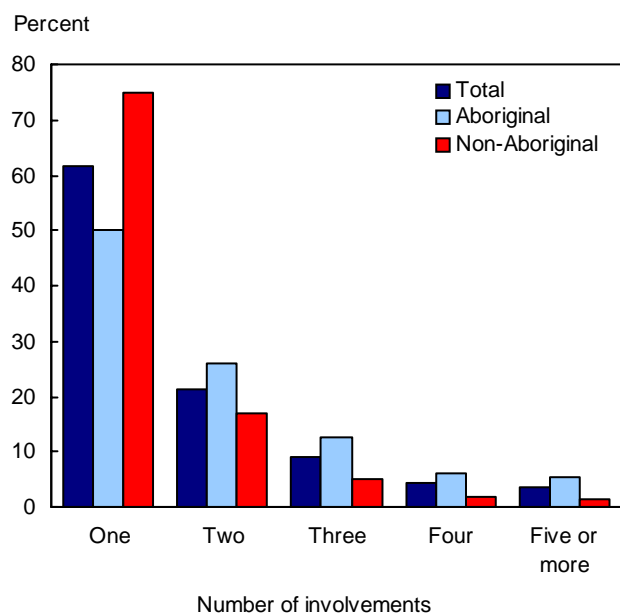
In total, 28,021 adults were involved in correctional services in Saskatchewan during the years 1999/00 to 2003/04. Among them, 89% (25,112) completed their first involvement during this period.¹⁰ The 3,000 who had not completed their first involvement were excluded from all further analyses.

10. The remainder were active in their single involvement that was not yet completed as of March 31, 2004.

Among those with a completed involvement, 39% had more than one involvement in the Saskatchewan correctional system during this time frame. Analysis of ICSS data revealed that Aboriginal adults were more likely than non-Aboriginal adults to have more than one involvement in corrections.¹¹ Specifically, 50% of Aboriginal persons versus 25% of Non-Aboriginal persons had more than one involvement in correctional services during the five year time frame (see Figure 2). In particular, 26% of Aboriginal persons had two involvements, 12% had three involvements, 6% had four involvements and 5% had five or more involvements. In comparison, among non-Aboriginal persons, 17% had two involvements, 5% had three involvements, 2% had four involvements and 1% had five or more involvements.

Figure 2

Distribution of the number of involvements in adult correctional services, by Aboriginal identity¹, Saskatchewan, 1999/00 to 2003/04



1. Total includes persons where Aboriginal identity was unknown.
 Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text Table 1

Aboriginal identity of all persons involved in correctional services in Saskatchewan, 1999/00 to 2003/04

| | N | % | % of known |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Total | 25,112 | 100.0 | |
| Aboriginal | 14,349 | 57.1 | 61.8 |
| Non-Status Indian | 953 | 3.8 | 4.1 |
| North American (Status) Indian | 10,842 | 43.2 | 46.7 |
| Métis | 2,554 | 10.2 | 11.0 |
| Non-Aboriginal | 8,871 | 35.3 | 38.2 |
| Unknown | 1,892 | 7.5 | |

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Characteristics of persons supervised in correctional services in Saskatchewan

Among those who had completed at least one involvement, 57% (14,349) were Aboriginal¹² (see Text Table 1) compared to only 10% of adults in the total Saskatchewan population.

Within the Aboriginal population in correctional services, there were over 950 (7%) non-status Indians, about 2,500 (18%) Métis, and slightly more than 10,800 (76%) North American (status) Indians. Given the large number of Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan corrections, their level of over-representation in Saskatchewan correctional services, and, as will be demonstrated in this report, the different profile of Aboriginal offenders, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups are presented and compared throughout this *Juristat*.

Most serious offence profiles differed between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons in Saskatchewan

Table 1 presents a profile of the Saskatchewan adult correctional population who had completed their first involvement on a number of personal and case characteristics and compares Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons. Comparisons between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons according to their most serious offence (MSO) indicate that Aboriginal offenders are more than twice as likely to have a serious violent offence (homicide, attempted murder, major assault) in their first correctional involvement than non-Aboriginal persons (18% versus 8%). Furthermore, slightly more than half of Aboriginal persons had a violent offence (serious violent offence, sexual offence, robbery, common assault, other violent offence) as their most serious offence compared to 38% of non-Aboriginal persons. On the other hand, non-Aboriginal persons were more likely to have a criminal code traffic offence (14% versus 11%), fraud offence (7% versus 3%) or drug offence (8% versus 3%) as their most serious offence than Aboriginal persons.

11. Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal comparative analyses exclude cases where Aboriginal identity is unknown. Of the 25,112 persons who had completed their first involvement, Aboriginal identity was unknown for 1,892 persons.
 12. When excluding persons of unknown Aboriginal identity, 62% of persons with at least one completed involvement were Aboriginal and 38% were non-Aboriginal.

Aboriginal adults in corrections in Saskatchewan are younger and are more often women than non-Aboriginal adults

As indicated in Table 1, Aboriginal people in the Saskatchewan correctional system were an average of three years younger than non-Aboriginal persons, 29.7 years of age versus 33.1 years of age. This is reflective of a young Aboriginal adult population in Saskatchewan where almost half (49%) of Aboriginal adults compared to 27% of non-Aboriginal adults were between 18 and 34 years of age (2001 Census). Almost three-quarters (71%) of Aboriginal persons in the adult Saskatchewan correctional system were less than 35 years of age compared to 58% of Non-Aboriginal persons.

Over 2,700 Aboriginal females and about 900 non-Aboriginal females were involved in Saskatchewan correctional services between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2004. This was almost double the representation of females in the Aboriginal population involved in corrections compared to the non-Aboriginal corrections population (19% versus 10%).

Aboriginal persons in Saskatchewan corrections also differed from non-Aboriginal persons on their most recent marital status. While approximately half of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons were single, almost twice the proportion of Aboriginal persons were in a common-law relationship (31% versus 17%) and, almost half the proportion were separated or divorced (9% versus 17%). Only slightly fewer Aboriginal persons than non-Aboriginal persons were married (10% versus 14%).

One in five Aboriginal adults involved in Saskatchewan corrections only have primary school education

Compared to the general population, the corrections population has a relatively low level of education. For example, among all 25 to 54 year olds in Saskatchewan population, about one-third (34%) had completed a post-secondary degree¹³ compared to only 3% of this age group among the correctional population (Table 1). Low education attainment was much more common among Aboriginal persons in Saskatchewan corrections than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Non-Aboriginal persons involved in corrections were three times as likely as Aboriginal persons to have completed some or all of a post-secondary education (12% versus 4%). More than double the proportion of Aboriginal persons compared to non-Aboriginal persons had only completed some or all of their primary school education (20% versus 8%). This compared to 4% of the total Saskatchewan population of 25 to 54 year olds who had between 0 and 8 years of education.

More than four-in-ten (42%) Aboriginal adults involved in corrections were unemployed prior to their most recent admission to correctional services, compared to just under a quarter (23%) of non-Aboriginal adults (Table 1). An additional 6% of Aboriginal persons were students versus 2% of non-Aboriginal persons. This finding may be related to the comparatively younger average age of Aboriginal persons involved in correctional services. It should be noted that the employment status of persons admitted to correctional services may be affected by their contact with the criminal justice system and resulting admission to correctional supervision. Therefore, the employment status at admission of persons involved in

correctional services cannot be directly compared to the employment status of the general adult population in Saskatchewan.

Text box 5: Offender risk/need assessment in Saskatchewan

The utility of offender risk assessment tools in predicting offender outcomes such as behaviour during and following correctional involvement has repeatedly been demonstrated (Andrews & Bonta, 1998). Actuarial risk prediction instruments are more effective than clinical judgment alone.¹⁴ According to Andrews and Bonta (1998), the assessment of offenders should be based upon four principles: risk, need, responsivity and professional discretion.¹⁵ The risk principle is based upon two assertions: (1) criminal behaviour can and should be predicted; and (2) the intervention employed should match the risk level of the offender. Furthermore, the need principle is based upon the concept that offenders often have more than one need or problem, and that certain needs are more directly related to offending than others (i.e., criminogenic needs). Case workers should target those criminogenic needs for intervention. Some examples of criminogenic needs include antisocial attitudes, antisocial peers, family or marital problems, and substance abuse.

The Saskatchewan Department of Corrections and Public Safety has instituted use of primary and secondary risk assessment in their system of case management. Corrections staff use the Offender Risk Assessment Management System (ORAMS) to derive primary risk assessments and, when appropriate, secondary risk assessments. Primary risk assessments are completed on all offenders sentenced to probation, conditional sentence or prison and for those for whom a court report has been ordered.¹⁶ These assessments help predict an offender's likelihood of committing any new offence (general recidivism). These assessments also identify problem areas that contribute to offending behaviour (criminogenic needs), help match the degree and type of supervision and/or interventions to the offender's risk, assist in determining the offender's appropriateness for community work placements, temporary releases or early release from a correctional institution, and determine which offenders pose the highest risk to the community. Corrections staff review factors on the primary risk assessment concerning drug or alcohol abuse, attitude, family/marital relationships, financial situation, emotional stability, mental ability and employment. The primary risk assessment tool has been found to predict failure on community supervision (e.g., probation, temporary absences), conviction for a new offence, and re-incarceration.

Secondary risk assessments are completed as required by the offender's needs and offence history. These more specific assessments focus on the offender's risk to reoffend in areas such as a general assault, partner abuse, or sexual offending. The Static-99¹⁷ is the risk assessment tool used to assess the probability of sexual and violent reoffending among adult males who have already been convicted of at least one sexual offence. Completing both primary and secondary risk assessments gives a more complete picture of the offender's overall risk to re-offend as well as pinpoints what correctional services an offender requires. For example, an offender could be considered at low risk to reoffend with any offence but high risk to offend with a sexual offence, assault offence, or spousal assault offence. In this case, the focus should be on factors related to the specific types of reoffending that is likely to occur rather than the factors related to the offender's risk of general recidivism.

Source: Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections and Public Safety website, www.cps.gov.sk.ca

13. Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada, 2003.
14. Grove, W. M., & Meehl, P. E., 1996. Comparative efficiency of informal (subjective, impressionistic) and formal (mechanical, algorithmic) prediction procedures: The clinical-statistical controversy. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 2, 293-323.
15. The responsivity principle refers to delivering treatment programs in a style and mode that is consistent with the ability and learning style of the offender. Professional discretion is used to override the principles of assessment (risk, need, responsivity) in unique cases that do not fit the risk, need, responsivity formula.
16. Corrections and Public Safety, Community Operations, 2002. *Probation Officer General Orientation and Training Guide*. Saskatchewan, Corrections and Public Safety.
17. Hanson, R.K. & D. Thornton, 1999. *Static-99: Improving Actuarial Risk Assessment for Sex Offenders*. (User Report No. 1999-02). Ottawa: Department of the Solicitor General of Canada.

Substance abuse, social interaction and employment needs more common among Aboriginal persons than non-Aboriginal persons

Needs data were available for assessed offenders on six needs:¹⁸ attitude, criminal peers and companions (social interaction), drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse), employment, family/marital relationships (marital/family) and emotional stability of the offender (personal/emotional). Descriptions of the need domains are provided below:

- Attitude: degree to which an individual accepts responsibility for the offence and shows a willingness to change
- Peers/companions (social interaction): level of problems associated with some or all of the individual's peers
- Drug or alcohol abuse (substance abuse): degree to which use of alcohol and/or drugs is associated with problems
- Employment: employment status (employed versus unemployed) and employment history
- Family/marital relationships (marital/family): presence or absence of serious problems in relationships
- Emotional stability of offender (personal/emotional): whether or not emotional instability exists and the degree to which this related to serious problems

Persons involved in correctional services were rated as medium or high in three need areas, on average. However, on average, Aboriginal persons had four out of six possible needs indicated as medium or high, compared to three for non-Aboriginal persons (Table 1). Aboriginal adults were more than twice as likely as non-Aboriginal adults to have five or six needs identified, while approximately three times as many non-Aboriginal adults, compared to Aboriginal adults, had one or no need indicated as medium or high.

Employment (49%), family/marital (52%), attitude (63%), social interaction (65%) and substance abuse (82%) needs were indicated as medium or high level needs for a large proportion of the assessed adults in Saskatchewan correctional services. For all types of criminogenic needs, a larger percentage of Aboriginal persons compared to non-Aboriginal persons were assessed as medium or high, with the exception of personal/emotional (17% and 19%, respectively). The largest discrepancy between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons were for employment (60% versus 33%),¹⁹ social interaction (74% versus 49%) and substance abuse (90% versus 67%) needs.

Profile of first involvement

The following section examines the characteristics of the first completed involvement of persons in correctional services in Saskatchewan over the fiscal years 1999/00 to 2003/04.²⁰ In order to relate the characteristics of involvements to the characteristics of people who have more than one involvement, the first involvement was chosen.

In most instances, a person's involvement is comprised of a single legal status

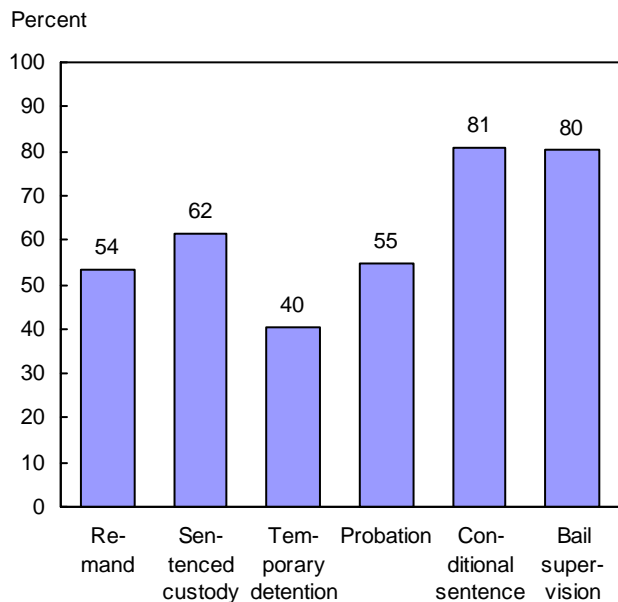
A majority (58%) of all adults in their first involvement in the Saskatchewan provincial correctional system were supervised under only one legal status:²¹ remand, sentenced custody, temporary detention, probation, conditional sentence or bail

supervision. About one-quarter (26%) had two types of correctional services, 9% had three, and 6% had four or more. Aboriginal persons were more likely than non-Aboriginal persons to have more than one legal status during an involvement (45% versus 38%).

Of all completed first involvements, only 40% of persons held on temporary detention and 54% of persons held in remand had more than one legal status in their first involvement (see Figure 3). Note that persons in remand or other temporary detention who receive only unsupervised sanctions (fine, restitution, etc.) or who are ordered 'time served' are deemed to have been released at court. In these situations, it is common for an involvement to end at remand or temporary detention. Most temporary detention (60%) and 46% of remand involvements had no other legal statuses. Just over half of persons serving a probation term (54%) had another type of correctional service in their first involvement.

Figure 3

Percent of adults whose legal status type was accompanied by at least one other legal status type, first involvement, Saskatchewan, 1999/00 to 2003/04



Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

18. Although needs information is collected several times during a person's involvement in correctional services, the data used in this study were for the most recent involvement. That is, the needs data may not reflect the assessment result at the time of release from the index involvement, but is likely a good proxy for the results of the assessment at that time. Please see Text box 5 for more information on risk/need assessment in Saskatchewan.

19. This is consistent with the lower level of employment at admission.

20. Please note that first involvements may not be true first involvements given that activity occurring fully prior to the survey reference period, prior or current federal supervisions, or correctional supervision in other provincial jurisdictions are excluded.

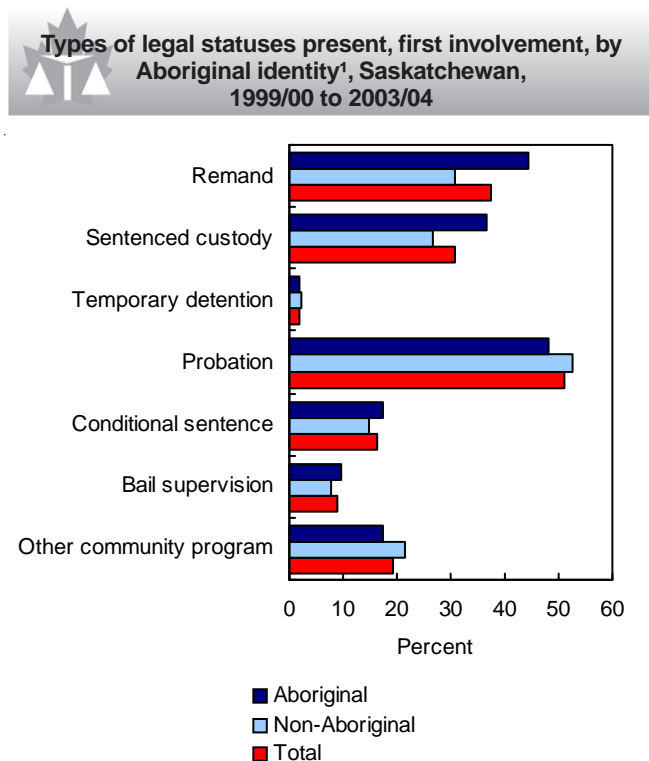
21. In some instances, the involvement may be comprised of more than one occurrence of the same legal status such as consecutive terms of probation that are aggregated into one recorded legal status of probation.

Probation is the most common correctional service

Since 42% of persons had more than one type of correctional service in their first involvement, frequency counts of legal status types are not mutually exclusive. The most common type of correctional service was probation, where half (51%, 12,856) of all adults had a probation term (Figure 4). This differed slightly between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons, with 48% versus 53% respectively, serving a probation term. The second most common legal status following probation was remand, with 37% (9,383) held in remand at some point during their involvement. It was more common for Aboriginal persons to be held in remand during their first involvement than non-Aboriginal persons (44% versus 31%).

Approximately 31% (7,585) of persons had served a period of sentenced custody during their first involvement in the Saskatchewan correctional system. However, this differed on the basis of Aboriginal identity, where 36% of Aboriginal persons versus 27% of non-Aboriginal persons had a period of sentenced custody. Other common correctional programs were conditional sentences (16%, 4,078) and other community programs (19%, 4,843). A slightly larger percentage of Aboriginal persons were serving a conditional sentence than non-Aboriginal persons (17% versus 15%), while slightly fewer were serving an other community program (17% versus 21%).

Figure 4



Note: Types of legal statuses are not mutually exclusive.
 1. Total includes persons where Aboriginal identity was unknown.
Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Among the approximately 25,000 persons whose first involvement had ended during the study period, the average amount of time spent involved in correctional services was 297 days. This figure is largely influenced by the large number of offenders with probation, where the length can be up to three years. However, the overall median was slightly less, at 217 days or approximately 7 months, while the modal (i.e. most frequent value) number of days involved was only two. This low value is due to the large number of remand only involvements that were two days in duration (1,402). Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons had spent on average a similar amount of time (300 days versus 294 days) involved in correctional services. There was also little difference between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons in median number of days involved in the first involvement with a median of 222 days for Aboriginal persons versus 230 days for non-Aboriginal persons.

Re-involvement profiles

As described earlier, re-involvement is defined as a return to correctional services following complete release from involvement in correctional services. As previously noted, this excludes federal correctional supervision, correctional supervision in other provincial jurisdictions and correctional activity occurring prior to or after the survey reference period. Re-involvement, and the lack of re-involvement, can be examined in terms of rates, the elapsed time until a re-involvement, and patterns of re-involvement over time. Furthermore, these indices may be compared across various factors such as sex, age, Aboriginal identity and type of correctional service. When examining survival analysis results, rates of re-involvement indicate the rate at which offenders were returned to correctional services by a certain point in time, while statistically accounting for time at risk to return.

For all follow-up analyses, persons were excluded whose involvement included only remand, bail supervision and/or certain temporary detention statuses during the release cohort year. These exclusion criteria were used in order to acknowledge the possibility of persons being released and subsequently returning to correctional supervision on the same matter. For example, if a person is arrested and immediately held in remand following arrest, he/she may be released from remand pending a court date. Once at court, the individual may be sentenced to custody on these matters. However, persons were included if their involvement included remand and one or more other types of correctional service (sentenced custody, conditional sentence, probation, other community program).

Five-year re-involvement profile of 1999/00 release cohort

Looking at the first year of the study period a total of 5,496 people were released from all involvement in provincial correctional services in Saskatchewan between April 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000. Among those released, 47% were re-involved in correctional services by March 31, 2004. The pattern in the cumulative proportion of persons re-involved is presented in Figure 5. In general, there was rapid increase in re-involvement within the first 12 months, with approximately 22% of persons returning to correctional services within the first year following release. Respectively, 34%, 41% and 45%

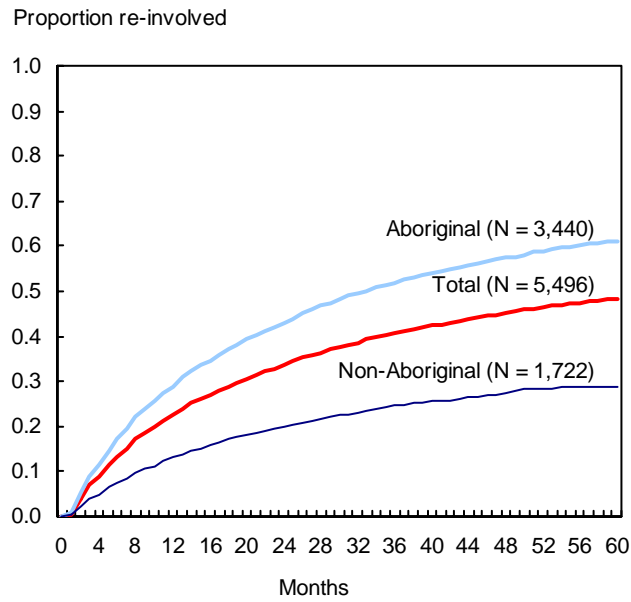
had been re-involved in correctional services after two, three and four years. Because of the relatively low number of persons returning, and the high amount of censoring in the fifth year, results at the fifth year were not reported.

Aboriginal persons more likely to return to correctional services

Large differences in the survival analysis profiles of Aboriginal versus non-Aboriginal persons can be observed in Figure 5 (see Table 2 for more statistical information). At the end of the fourth year (48 months), more than one-half (57%) of Aboriginal persons compared to slightly more than one-quarter of non-Aboriginal persons (28%) had returned to correctional services following release. Furthermore, rates of re-involvement increase more rapidly for Aboriginal persons during the first 12 months than non-Aboriginal persons, with 29% versus 13% returning, respectively.

Figure 5

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 1999/00 release cohort, to March 31, 2004, by Aboriginal identity², Saskatchewan



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).
 2. Total includes persons where Aboriginal identity was unknown.
Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

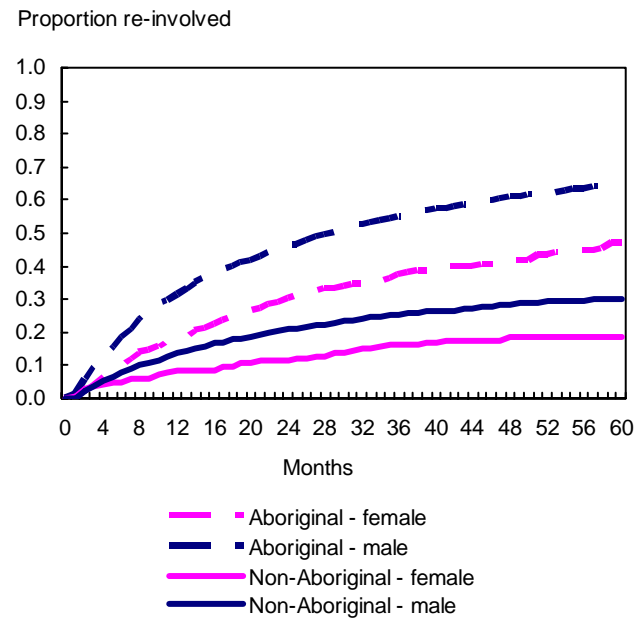
These results indicate that Aboriginal persons have much different re-involvement profiles than non-Aboriginal persons in correctional services in Saskatchewan. Furthermore, as discussed earlier, comparative analyses indicate that Aboriginal persons in this population have a number of characteristics that make them more 'at risk' to become re-involved such as younger age and more diverse and higher need profiles than non-Aboriginal persons (see Table 1). Therefore, all further

analyses of re-involvement in this *Juristat* are conducted while controlling for Aboriginal identity.

One key demographic risk factor for involvement in the criminal justice system is sex, with males being much more likely to be involved in criminal activity than females. Figure 6 displays the survival profile of males and females released from correctional services during the fiscal year 1999/00 by Aboriginal identity. For both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups, females are slower to become re-involved in correctional services and have lower re-involvement rates than males (see Table 3 for more statistical information). However, Aboriginal females have higher re-involvement rates than both non-Aboriginal females and males. Four years after release from correctional services approximately 61% of Aboriginal males, 41% of Aboriginal females, 29% of non-Aboriginal males and 19% of non-Aboriginal females had returned to correctional services in Saskatchewan.

Figure 6

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 1999/00 release cohort, to March 31, 2004, by Aboriginal identity and sex, Saskatchewan



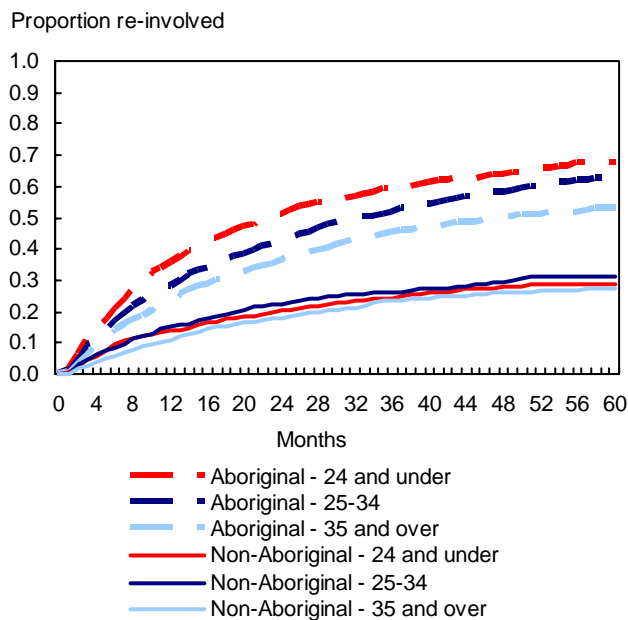
1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).
Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Another major demographic risk factor cited in the literature is age, with younger persons having higher rates of offending than older persons. As noted previously, the Aboriginal population under provincial correctional supervision in Saskatchewan is younger than the non-Aboriginal population, which would influence their likelihood of re-involvement. Figure 7 examines re-involvement while controlling for age. As can be seen, re-involvement rates are still higher for Aboriginal adults

than for non-Aboriginal adults even when age is taken into account. Furthermore, age appears to play more of a role in outcome following release from correctional services for Aboriginal adults than for non-Aboriginal adults (see Table 3 for more statistical information). Among the Aboriginal group, the youngest age group (24 and under)²² had the highest rate of re-involvement with approximately 64% re-involved in correctional services within 4 years, compared to 58% of those 25 to 34 years of age and 50% of those 35 years of age and over. This effect was not observed in the non-Aboriginal group where the re-involvement rates ranged very little across age groups. While the oldest age group among non-Aboriginals had the lowest re-involvement rate four years after release of 26%, this did not differ greatly from that observed for the 24 and under age group (28%) or the 25 to 34 year old age group (29%).

Figure 7

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 1999/00 release cohort, to March 31, 2004, by Aboriginal identity and age, Saskatchewan



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).
 Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

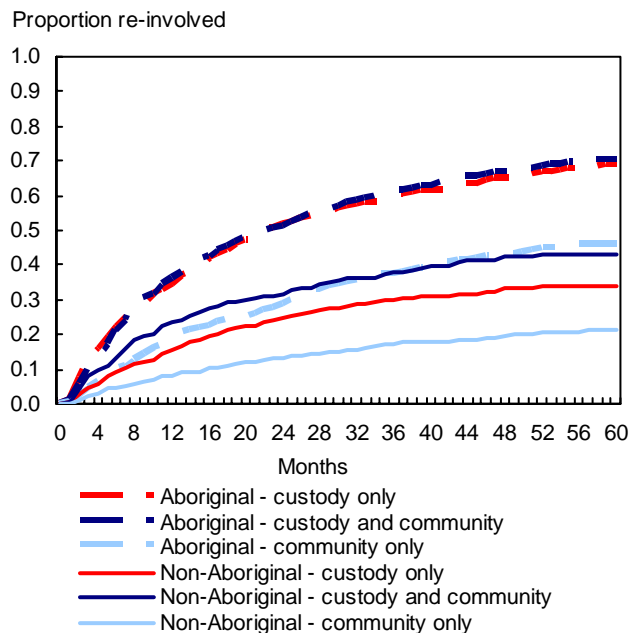
Adults with community only involvements least likely to return to correctional services

In general, custodial sentences are given to offenders who commit more serious offences and/or have more extensive criminal histories than those who are sentenced to community correctional sentences such as probation and conditional sentences. Therefore, since criminal history is a major risk factor for return to criminal justice involvement, those with custodial sentences would be expected to be at greater risk for re-involvement in correctional services. As displayed in

Figure 8, this appears to be the case. For both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups, persons with only community involvement have lower rates of re-involvement than those whose involvement included a period of sentenced custody, regardless of whether the custodial sentence was alone or combined with a community sentence (see Table 3 for more statistical information). For non-Aboriginal persons, 20% of those released from community only involvement returned to correctional services within four years after release compared to 33% of non-Aboriginal persons with custody only, and 42% of those with both custodial and community sentences. For Aboriginal persons, 43% of those released from community only involvement returned to correctional services four years after release compared to 65% of persons with custody, and 67% with custody and community sentences.

Figure 8

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 1999/00 release cohort, to March 31, 2004, by Aboriginal identity and involvement type, Saskatchewan



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).
 Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

However, it is important to note that among those with custody and community involvement, fewer of those released from a community program were returned to correctional services than those released from custody, and this finding held true for Aboriginal (65% versus 76% returned within 4 years) and non-Aboriginal (40% versus 64% returned within 4 years) persons.

22. Generally, persons admitted to the adult correctional system are 18 years of age or older. Less than 1% (0.2%, 41) were under 18 years of age at admission into correctional services in Saskatchewan.

Those with custody and community involvements who were released from custody include offenders who may have already breached conditions of a community sentence and/or had additional offences dealt with during their community supervision that resulted in a period of custody. It is possible that community supervision contributes to more successful treatment and thus reintegration, and that those offenders released following a period of community supervision are less likely to become re-involved in the system. Further study is needed to better assess this hypothesis.

As number of identified needs rises, re-involvement becomes more likely

Actuarial risk assessment tools such as those employed in Saskatchewan often determine an overall risk/need score per offender. However, this value was not available in the data and therefore a 'proxy' measure was derived by calculating the number of needs endorsed as 'medium' or 'high' need level, for the six need areas for which data were available. Accordingly, offenders with a fewer number of needs indicated would be expected to have lower rates of re-involvement than those with a higher number of needs. As number of needs rose rates of re-involvement also increased, for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups (Figure 9). For non-Aboriginal persons, approximately 15% with zero to one need returned to corrections within 4 years of release compared to 30% of those with two to three needs, 46% of those with four needs, and 50% of those with five or six needs identified. In a similar pattern, 39% of Aboriginal persons with zero to one need returned to correctional supervision within four years compared to 51% with two to three needs, 66% with four needs and 75% with five to six needs.

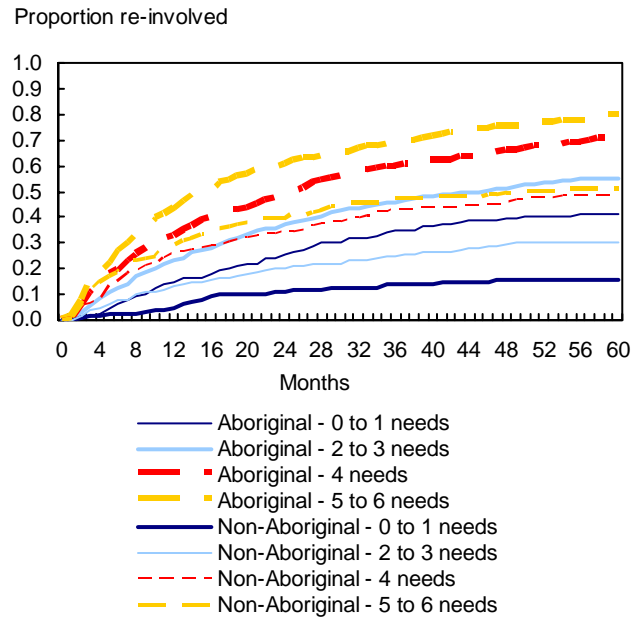
Selected characteristics and outcome

Survival analysis is not appropriate to use when cell counts are small. As a result, for analysis of key sub-groups, a four year fixed follow-up analysis was performed. Text table 2 presents re-involvement status by selected characteristics using the fixed follow-up approach. The index releasing legal status type refers to the last type of correctional service a person was involved in prior to complete release from correctional service involvement in 1999/00.²³ As indicated in Figure 8, persons released from community supervision had lower re-involvement rates than those released from custody. However, there were no differences in outcome based upon the type of community correctional service offenders were released from. Notably, offenders who concluded a conditional sentence without breaching and being incarcerated had a similar outcome profile (39% re-involved) as probationers who concluded without breaching their probation order and being incarcerated (38% re-involved) or those in another type of community program (39% re-involved).

Among those released from custody, approximately 57% of persons released from sentenced custody were re-involved following release, while 76% released from temporary detention were re-involved.²⁴ Two or more re-involvements within four years following release was most frequent for those released from other temporary detention (58%) and sentenced custody (36%).

Figure 9

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 1999/00 release cohort to March 31, 2004, by Aboriginal identity and number of needs, Saskatchewan



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).
 Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Robbery offenders most likely to have one or more re-involvement

Certain offences are often cited as being linked to the likelihood of recidivism. For example, Spicer and Glicksman (2004) found that two-year reconviction rates differed among persons with differing principal offences, with those originally convicted for a sexual offence having the lowest reconviction rate of 17%, while those convicted for theft had the highest rate of 73%.²⁵ Analysis of the most serious offence in the index involvement by re-involvement status in Saskatchewan indicates that offenders with a robbery offence had the highest rate of re-involvement, with two-thirds returning to correctional services within 4 years of release. Furthermore, more than half of the offenders who had a break and enter (55%), serious violent offence (55%), theft and possession of stolen property (52%) and offence against the administration of justice (50%) returned to correctional supervision in Saskatchewan. Those least likely to be re-involved were offenders who had a fraud (31%), drug

23. Index releasing legal status types were rank ordered as per Text table 2. Types of correctional services are mutually exclusive.
 24. Please note that persons whose involvement included only remand, bail supervision and/or certain temporary detention statuses were excluded.
 25. Two-year reconviction rates for other types of principal offences were 42.5% for violence against the person, 69.5% for burglary (equivalent to break and enter in Canada), 48.2% for robbery, 36.9% for fraud and forgery, 55.7% for criminal damage (equivalent to mischief in Canada), 45.9% for drug offences, 42.9% for motoring offences, and 48.8% for all other offences (Spicer and Glicksman, 2004).

offence (32%), other property offence (35%), *Criminal Code* traffic offence (36%) or a sexual offence (40%) as their most serious offence. Those most likely to have a re-involvement were also most likely to have two or more re-involvements, such as offenders with a robbery (48%), theft/possession of stolen property (35%), serious violent offence (34%), break and enter (33%) or an offence against the administration of justice (31%) as their most serious offence.

Offenders with employment and social interaction needs had highest re-involvement rates

Criminogenic needs indicated as medium or high were also examined in relation to outcome using the fixed follow-up approach (see Text box 5 for more information on risk/need assessment). While overall 46% of adults returned to correctional services, between 52% and 63% persons identified

as having medium or high needs in specific need areas were re-involved in correctional services. Those with employment indicated as a need area were most likely to return to correctional services (63%), followed by persons with a social interaction need (59%). These persons were also most likely to have two or more re-involvements, with 41% of those with an employment need and 37% of those with a social interaction need being returned to correctional services two or more times following complete release.

Characteristics of re-involvements

As noted earlier, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons differed in their rate of re-involvement following release. They also differed in the number of re-involvements, with Aboriginal persons being three times more likely to have three re-involvements (9% versus 3%) and five times more likely to

Text Table 2

| | Total ¹ | No re-involvement | | One re-involvement | | Two or more re-involvements | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| | N | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Total | 5,496 | 2,993 | 54.5 | 1,071 | 19.5 | 1,432 | 26.1 |
| Index releasing legal status type^{1,2} | | | | | | | |
| Sentenced custody | 1,809 | 775 | 42.8 | 376 | 20.8 | 658 | 36.4 |
| Temporary detention | 79 | 19 | 24.1 | 14 | 17.7 | 46 | 58.2 |
| Conditional sentence | 491 | 302 | 61.5 | 96 | 19.6 | 93 | 18.9 |
| Probation | 2,775 | 1,690 | 60.9 | 524 | 18.9 | 561 | 20.2 |
| Other community program | 342 | 207 | 60.5 | 61 | 17.8 | 74 | 21.6 |
| Most serious offence, index involvement² | | | | | | | |
| Serious violent offences ³ | 710 | 321 | 45.2 | 150 | 21.1 | 239 | 33.7 |
| Sexual offences ⁴ | 176 | 105 | 59.7 | 40 | 22.7 | 31 | 17.6 |
| Robbery | 124 | 41 | 33.1 | 24 | 19.4 | 59 | 47.6 |
| Common assault | 1,096 | 620 | 56.6 | 211 | 19.3 | 265 | 24.2 |
| Other violent offences ⁵ | 293 | 154 | 52.6 | 55 | 18.8 | 84 | 28.7 |
| Break and enter | 418 | 189 | 45.2 | 90 | 21.5 | 139 | 33.3 |
| Theft and possession of stolen property | 467 | 222 | 47.5 | 82 | 17.6 | 163 | 34.9 |
| Fraud | 217 | 149 | 68.7 | 39 | 18.0 | 29 | 13.4 |
| Other property offences | 122 | 79 | 64.8 | 20 | 16.4 | 23 | 18.9 |
| Offences against the administration of justice | 324 | 163 | 50.3 | 62 | 19.1 | 99 | 30.6 |
| Other <i>Criminal code</i> offences (excludes traffic) | 202 | 117 | 57.9 | 35 | 17.3 | 50 | 24.8 |
| <i>Criminal Code</i> - traffic offences | 794 | 509 | 64.1 | 168 | 21.2 | 117 | 14.7 |
| Drug offences | 208 | 141 | 67.8 | 31 | 14.9 | 36 | 17.3 |
| Other federal statutes ⁶ | 175 | 80 | 45.7 | 30 | 17.1 | 65 | 37.1 |
| Provincial/territorial/municipal offences and bylaw infractions | 94 | 64 | 68.1 | 16 | 17.0 | 14 | 14.9 |
| Need indicated⁷ | | | | | | | |
| Substance abuse | 3,840 | 1,695 | 44.1 | 850 | 22.1 | 1,295 | 33.7 |
| Attitude | 2,960 | 1,280 | 43.2 | 631 | 21.3 | 1,049 | 35.4 |
| Family/marital | 2,440 | 1,058 | 43.4 | 534 | 21.9 | 848 | 34.8 |
| Personal/emotional | 812 | 391 | 48.2 | 182 | 22.4 | 239 | 29.4 |
| Social interaction | 3,061 | 1,254 | 41.0 | 688 | 22.5 | 1,119 | 36.6 |
| Employment | 2,375 | 885 | 37.3 | 518 | 21.8 | 972 | 40.9 |

1. Includes rank-ordered most serious legal status type, and therefore, types of legal statuses are mutually exclusive. Involvements consisting of remand, bail supervisions and/or certain temporary detention statuses only during the release cohort year were excluded.
 2. Refers to characteristics of the involvement prior to release in 1999/00.
 3. Includes homicide, attempted murder and major (non-sexual) assault.
 4. Includes sexual assault (all levels) and other sexual offences.
 5. Includes utter threats, criminal harassment, and other crimes against the person.
 6. Includes other federal statute offences, such as *Income Tax Act* and *Firearms Act*.
 7. Includes only those cases where need assessments were performed. Need level indicated as medium or high. Needs indicated are not mutually exclusive, persons may have more than one need indicated. Refers to most recent assessment results as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

be re-involved four or more times (11% versus 2%) (see Text table 3).

Characteristics of re-involvements for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons are presented in Table 4. In general, the overall length of the first re-involvement, taking into account all supervision, was relatively short with more than half of persons becoming re-involved for a period of six months or less. Aboriginal persons were slightly more likely than non-Aboriginal persons to have shorter re-involvements of 1 to 90 days (43% versus 37%) and 3 to 6 months (15% versus 12%). One reason for this may be that a larger proportion of Aboriginal people were readmitted to custody, particularly to remand, which tends to be for a shorter period of time than community dispositions such as probation.

Looking at released offenders' first readmission to correctional services, more than 6 in 10 were returned to custody, mostly to remand. Aboriginal persons were more likely to be returned on remand (45%) than non-Aboriginal persons (38%). Approximately 13% of re-involved persons had a conditional sentence as their most serious re-admitting legal status and another 19% had probation. Non-Aboriginal persons were more likely to have a probation re-admission (26%) than Aboriginal persons (17%).

Considering all re-involvements over the four year period, almost two-thirds (65%) of re-involved persons had a term of sentenced custody as their most serious legal status type, with Aboriginal persons being more likely to have sentenced custody (68%) than non-Aboriginal persons (56%). Conditional sentences were the most serious legal status over all re-involvements for 7% of those re-involved, while probation accounted for another 11%. Aboriginal persons were less likely to have probation as their most serious legal status type than non-Aboriginal persons (9% versus 17%).

Three-year re-involvement profile and correctional history analysis of 2001/02 release cohort

Up to this point, the analysis has followed persons from their first involvement recorded in the data forward. In order to explore the relationship between past correctional history and re-involvement, a release cohort in the middle of the data series, 2001/02, was selected. Through this analysis, the relationship between characteristics of prior correctional involvement and future re-involvement could be assessed.

Text Table 3

Number of re-involvements of 1999/00 release cohort within four years of release, by Aboriginal identity, Saskatchewan

| | Total | | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | |
|--|-------|------|------------|------|----------------|------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Total number of re-involvements | | | | | | |
| None | 2,993 | 54.5 | 1,455 | 42.3 | 1,242 | 72.1 |
| One | 1,071 | 19.5 | 756 | 22.0 | 283 | 16.4 |
| Two | 655 | 11.9 | 544 | 15.8 | 106 | 6.2 |
| Three | 375 | 6.8 | 322 | 9.4 | 53 | 3.1 |
| Four or more | 402 | 7.3 | 363 | 10.6 | 38 | 2.2 |

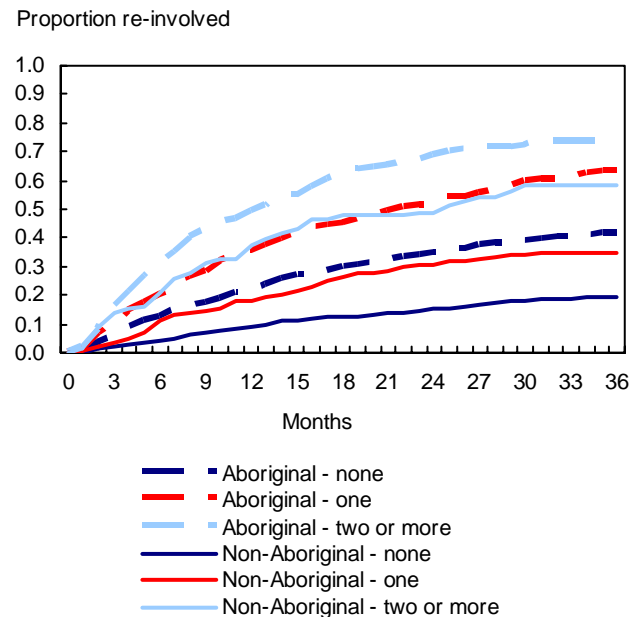
Note: Total includes cases where Aboriginal identity was unknown.
Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Persons with more previous correctional service involvements were more likely to return to correctional services

Clear differences existed between persons with none, one, or two or more previous involvements for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups (Figure 10). For example, two years following release, 15% of non-Aboriginal persons without any prior involvement had been returned to correctional services, compared to 31% with one previous involvement and 49% with two or more previous involvements. Similarly, among Aboriginal persons, the rate of re-involvement two years following release was 35% for persons with no prior involvement, 52% for those with one prior involvement and 69% for persons with two or more prior involvements.

Figure 10

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 2001/02 release cohort, to March 31, 2004, by Aboriginal identity and number of previous involvements, Saskatchewan



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).
Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.


As the number of previous involvements increase, not only does the likelihood of re-involvement increase, but also the number of re-involvements (see Text table 4). For example, among those with no previous involvements, 74% had no re-involvement, 16% had one re-involvement, and 10% had two or more re-involvements. In contrast, among persons with three or more previous involvements, 28% were not re-involved, 27% were re-involved once, and 46% were re-involved two or more times.

Text table 5 illustrates sentence characteristics of those previous involvements in relation to the outcome within two years following release among those with one or more previous involvement. The results are similar to those examining the relationship between type of current involvement and outcome

following release of the 1999/00 release cohort. Those with custody in previous involvements, in combination with community correctional statuses or alone, were more likely to return to correctional services than those with community only involvements. Compared to those with community only (40%) and custody only (53%) prior involvements, those who had both custody and community prior involvements were the most likely to return to correctional services (61%).

Among those with previous involvements, rates of re-involvement were lowest among persons whose prior most serious legal status was probation or a conditional sentence. Persons with sentenced custody in prior involvements were most likely to have two or more re-involvements (34%), followed by those with remand or temporary detention (20%).

Text Table 4




Re-involvement status of 2001/02 release cohort within two years of release, by number of previous involvements, Saskatchewan

| | No re-involvement | | One re-involvement | | Two or more re-involvements | |
|--|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Number of previous involvements | | | | | | |
| None | 2,480 | 73.8 | 554 | 16.5 | 328 | 9.8 |
| One | 617 | 51.7 | 330 | 27.6 | 247 | 20.7 |
| Two | 130 | 36.3 | 112 | 31.3 | 116 | 32.4 |
| Three or more | 45 | 27.8 | 43 | 26.5 | 74 | 45.7 |

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text Table 5



Re-involvement status of 2001/02 release cohort within two years of release, by selected correctional history characteristics, Saskatchewan

| | No re-involvement | | One re-involvement | | Two or more re-involvements | |
|--|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Type of Involvement, all previous involvements¹ | | | | | | |
| Custody only | 375 | 47.3 | 215 | 27.1 | 203 | 25.6 |
| Custody and community | 244 | 38.7 | 188 | 29.8 | 199 | 31.5 |
| Community only | 173 | 59.7 | 82 | 28.3 | 35 | 12.1 |
| Most Serious legal status type, all previous involvements^{1,2} | | | | | | |
| Sentenced Custody | 320 | 37.2 | 250 | 29.0 | 291 | 33.8 |
| Remand/Temp. Detention | 299 | 53.1 | 153 | 27.2 | 111 | 19.7 |
| Conditional Sentence | 30 | 57.7 | 14 | 26.9 | 8 | 15.4 |
| Probation | 136 | 61.5 | 61 | 27.6 | 24 | 10.9 |
| Bail Supervision | 7 | ... | 7 | ... | 3 | ... |

... not applicable

1. Includes only those who had one or more previous involvement.

2. Most serious legal status types are rank-ordered, and therefore, types of legal statuses are mutually exclusive. Other community programs were excluded from this table because there were no observations.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Text box 6: Developing outcome indicators

One of the purposes of this report is to develop standard outcome indicators derived from the ICSS. As mentioned earlier in this report, a common outcome indicator is the level of recidivism, however, since recidivism could not be directly measured through use of the ICSS alone, the rate of re-involvement is examined. This section compares two methods of examining re-involvement: survival analysis and fixed follow-up analysis.

Fixed follow-up re-involvement rates per fiscal year of release are presented in Text table 6. These rates refer to the rate at which persons released from correctional supervision are returned to correctional supervision within one year of their release. All persons have a fixed period of one year available to return or not return to correctional supervision. Survival analysis results for the 1999/00 release cohort are presented in Figure 11. Twelve month estimated re-involvement rates for five fiscal year release cohorts are presented in Text table 6. The survival analysis results relate to persons who are released and readmitted to correctional services within the same fiscal year.

As previously indicated, the benefit of using survival analysis as opposed to the fixed follow-up method is that the most recent data can be used. That is, persons who are followed can be released within the most recent fiscal year and followed up during the same fiscal year, since survival analysis statistically accounts for time at risk to return to correctional services. In contrast, the fixed follow-up method requires that only those released in the previous fiscal year, and have a full year available to return to correctional services, are followed. Furthermore, survival analysis provides the benefit of allowing for the examination of patterns in survival rates and failure (re-involvement) over time.


Re-involvement rates within a fixed follow-up time frame of one year for each fiscal year release cohort are presented in Text table 6. The overall rate of re-involvement in correctional services varied only slightly across the four fiscal years of data presented in this *Juristat*, ranging from 24% to 25%. The proportion of Aboriginal people re-involved within one year ranged from 31% to 32%, and from 13% to 14% for non-Aboriginal people. These findings indicate that there is little year-to-year variation in these outcomes based upon these rates.

Similar to the fixed follow-up method, overall, the survival analysis results indicate that rates of re-involvement within one year are consistent for each fiscal year of release (see Figure 11 and Text table 6). Furthermore, the pattern of re-involvement over time is similar per fiscal year across the total group of persons released as well as for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups of releases. For example, six months following release, the rate of re-involvement ranged from 13% to 14% for the total group, from 17% to 19% for the Aboriginal group, and from 6% to 8% for the non-Aboriginal group.

Re-involvement rates after twelve months remain consistent for each of the five fiscal years, ranging from 22% to 25% for all persons released, from 30% to 32% for Aboriginal persons, and from 12% to 14% for non-Aboriginal persons (see Text table 6). Although censoring becomes quite heavy after approximately the sixth month and therefore the results become less reliable, the twelve month results are quite comparable to the one-year fixed follow-up rates presented in Text table 6. For example, the largest discrepancy between the fixed follow-up rate and the re-involvement rate derived from survival analysis occurred in fiscal year 2001/02, where the fixed follow-up rate for the total population was 25% compared to a survival rate of 23% at twelve months. Similarly, the fixed follow-up return rate for the Aboriginal group was 32% compared to a 12 month return rate of 31%, and the fixed return rate for non-Aboriginal persons was 14% versus 12% re-involvement at 12 months.

These findings suggest that while both methodologies are generally consistent in terms of their results, the survival analysis approach permits relatively good estimations of fixed follow-up rates in situations where a full year of follow-up data are not available. However, it should be noted that although survival analysis results may be relatively good estimates of re-involvement outcomes, the errors in estimates may result in false positives and/or false negatives when used in time series analysis of outcomes. That is, based on statistical estimations, a person may be estimated to return to correctional supervision, but in fact does not return (false positive), or a person may be estimated to not return to correctional supervision, and in fact, does (false negative). Thus, since no statistical estimation is utilized in the fixed follow-up analysis method of determining re-involvement outcome, it may be a preferable method to assess year-over-year changes in outcome.

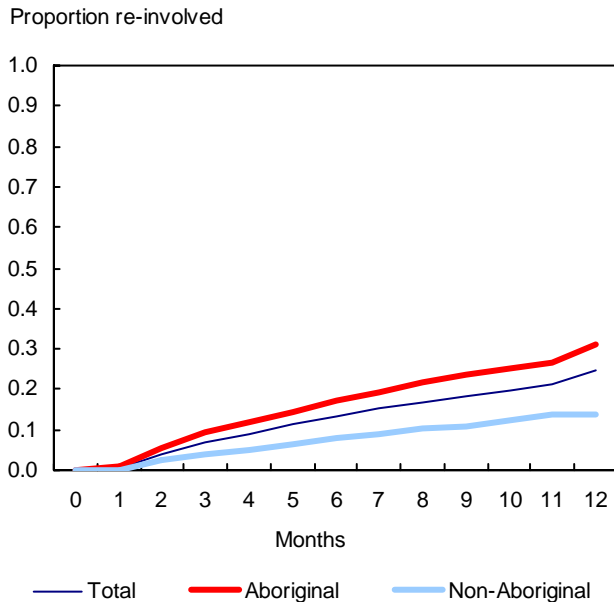
Text Table 6

|  Re-involvement outcomes and estimated re-involvement rates, one-year following release, by fiscal year of release, Saskatchewan | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---|------|--|
| Releasing Year | Offenders released | Offenders re-involved in any correctional service(s) ¹ | | Estimated re-involvement rate at month 12 ² |
| | N | N | % | % |
| 1999/00 | | | | |
| Total | 5,496 | 1,316 | 23.9 | 24.7 |
| Aboriginal | 3,507 | 1,063 | 30.3 | 31.3 |
| Non-Aboriginal | 1,722 | 238 | 13.8 | 14.0 |
| 2000/01 | | | | |
| Total | 5,301 | 1,274 | 24.0 | 22.5 |
| Aboriginal | 3,249 | 1,009 | 31.1 | 29.7 |
| Non-Aboriginal | 1,721 | 237 | 13.8 | 13.5 |
| 2001/02 | | | | |
| Total | 5,384 | 1,351 | 25.1 | 23.3 |
| Aboriginal | 3,392 | 1,100 | 32.4 | 31.2 |
| Non-Aboriginal | 1,693 | 229 | 13.5 | 11.7 |
| 2002/03 | | | | |
| Total | 5,618 | 1,384 | 24.6 | 24.9 |
| Aboriginal | 3,571 | 1,130 | 31.6 | 32.3 |
| Non-Aboriginal | 1,735 | 224 | 12.9 | 12.2 |
| 2003/04 | | | | |
| Total | 5,655 | ... | ... | 25.7 |
| Aboriginal | 3,516 | ... | ... | 33.2 |
| Non-Aboriginal | 1,732 | ... | ... | 13.5 |

Note: Total includes cases where Aboriginal identity was unknown.
 ... not applicable
 1. Actual re-involvement rates per fiscal year. These analyses include those persons who are released from all correctional involvement and examines re-involvement for a fixed period of one year following release.
 2. Refers to estimated re-involvement rates at month twelve, per survival analysis, per release cohort year. These analyses include those persons who are released from all correctional involvement and examines re-involvement within the same fiscal year.
Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Figure 11

Cumulative proportion re-involved¹, 1999/00 release cohort to March 31, 2000, by Aboriginal identity², Saskatchewan



1. Represents results of survival analysis which have undergone a simple mathematical transformation (1-proportion surviving / not re-involved).
 2. Total includes persons where Aboriginal identity was unknown.
Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Summary

This Juristat contained a demonstration of only a few analytical and practical applications of the data available from the ICSS to examine profiles of involvement and re-involvement in correctional services. Results suggest that those admitted to correctional services tend to have low levels of education, poor employment records, are young, and have a variety of needs that place them at risk for continued involvement in the correctional system. These characteristics were more prevalent in the Aboriginal population supervised in Saskatchewan corrections than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Follow-up analyses demonstrated that many of the risk factors found in the research literature to be correlated with recidivism were also found to be related to re-involvement outcomes, including number of needs indicated, correctional history, most serious offence, and gender. Notably, Aboriginal persons consistently had higher re-involvement rates than non-Aboriginal persons, even when taking many risk-related factors into consideration. Furthermore, analyses revealed that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons involved in the correctional system in Saskatchewan differed in many characteristics which were shown to be related to outcome following release.

Aboriginal over-representation in the Canadian criminal justice system is an important social and criminal justice issue in Canada, and particularly in Saskatchewan. Given the higher

likelihood of return to the correctional system following release of Aboriginal adults compared to non-Aboriginal adults, and the young age profile of the general Aboriginal population, this problem of Aboriginal over-representation in the Saskatchewan correctional system is likely to continue.

Glossary

Custodial supervision/custody: Detention of a person in a secure facility (prison), including sentenced custody, remand and temporary detention.

Sentenced custody: Detention of offenders convicted of a crime, either in a federal (2 years or more), or a provincial or territorial (less than 2 years) facility.

Non-sentenced custody:

- 1) **Remand:** Court ordered detention of a person while awaiting a further court appearance.
- 2) **Temporary detention:** Incarceration of a person (who is not on remand or has not been sentenced) for other reasons, e.g. immigration matters, parole suspension.

Community supervision: Supervision of offenders on probation, conditional sentence and community release (parole or statutory release). Offenders in the community are often supervised by a probation or parole officer.

Probation: Disposition of the court where the offender is given a suspended sentence or conditional discharge and is released on conditions prescribed in a mandatory probation order including reporting to a probation officer. In some circumstances, in addition to a fine or a sentence, the court may also place the offender on probation.

Conditional sentence: Disposition of the court introduced in 1996 where the offender serves a term of imprisonment in the community under specified conditions. Conditional sentences are more restrictive than probation, but less serious than custody. This type of sentence can only be imposed in cases where the term of imprisonment would be less than two years, and are therefore administered by provincial and territorial correctional agencies.

Bail supervision: Bail supervision, also referred to as pretrial supervision, is a supervised recognizance order that provides an alternative to custodial remand for persons awaiting trial. This is an option that incorporates supervision of the accused in the community (e.g., reporting to a probation officer, respecting curfew hours, etc.) as part of a judicial interim release.

Other community supervision programs: Includes restitution orders and community service orders.

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

Community service order: A court order that the offender perform a certain number of hours of volunteer work or service in the community.

Most serious offence (MSO): Offences are ranked according to the Courts Program's Most Serious Offence Index, based on frequencies of charges and their sentences in adult provincial criminal court. The classification of offences into

generic categories is done using incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR2) survey's violation coding classification structure. The ICSS uses these indexes to determine and classify offences for which an offender is sentenced or being held in pre-trial supervision or bail supervision. For example, if an offender is sentenced with more than one offence, the most serious offence rule states that where several offences occur in one incident, only the three most serious offences per legal hold status are recorded.

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Table 1

| | Total ¹ | | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Total | 25,112 | 100.0 | 14,349 | 100.0 | 8,871 | 100.0 |
| Sex | | | | | | |
| Male | 20,996 | 83.6 | 11,611 | 80.9 | 7,949 | 89.6 |
| Female | 4,106 | 16.4 | 2,732 | 19.0 | 919 | 10.4 |
| Unknown | 10 | 0.0 | 6 | 0.0 | 3 | 0.0 |
| Age at first involvement admission | | | | | | |
| Under 18 | 41 | 0.2 | 34 | 0.2 | 6 | 0.1 |
| 18-19 | 3,549 | 14.1 | 2,231 | 15.5 | 1,043 | 11.8 |
| 20-24 | 5,262 | 21.0 | 3,075 | 21.4 | 1,738 | 19.6 |
| 25-29 | 4,141 | 16.5 | 2,610 | 18.2 | 1,239 | 14.0 |
| 30-34 | 3,650 | 14.5 | 2,290 | 16.0 | 1,130 | 12.7 |
| 35-39 | 3,278 | 13.1 | 1,863 | 13.0 | 1,203 | 13.6 |
| 40-44 | 2,241 | 8.9 | 1,082 | 7.5 | 977 | 11.0 |
| 45-49 | 1,313 | 5.2 | 567 | 4.0 | 646 | 7.3 |
| over 50 | 1,637 | 6.5 | 597 | 4.2 | 889 | 10.0 |
| Mean (Standard deviation) | 31.0 | (10.9) | 29.7 | (9.8) | 33.1 | (12.1) |
| Median | 29.0 | | 28.0 | | 31.0 | |
| Marital status² | | | | | | |
| Single - never married | 11,511 | 45.8 | 6,832 | 47.6 | 4,367 | 49.2 |
| Married | 2,768 | 11.0 | 1,438 | 10.0 | 1,237 | 13.9 |
| Common-law | 6,035 | 24.0 | 4,421 | 30.8 | 1,484 | 16.7 |
| Separated/Divorced | 2,964 | 11.8 | 1,340 | 9.3 | 1,538 | 17.3 |
| Widowed | 180 | 0.7 | 101 | 0.7 | 75 | 0.8 |
| Unknown | 1,654 | 6.6 | 217 | 1.5 | 170 | 1.9 |
| Education completed² | | | | | | |
| Some primary | 1,778 | 7.1 | 1,487 | 10.4 | 263 | 3.0 |
| Completed primary | 1,790 | 7.1 | 1,347 | 9.4 | 404 | 4.6 |
| Some secondary | 11,238 | 44.8 | 7,571 | 52.8 | 3,445 | 38.8 |
| Completed secondary | 5,358 | 21.3 | 2,286 | 15.9 | 2,950 | 33.3 |
| Some post-secondary | 852 | 3.4 | 343 | 2.4 | 494 | 5.6 |
| Completed post-secondary | 751 | 3.0 | 201 | 1.4 | 529 | 6.0 |
| Unknown | 3,345 | 13.3 | 1,114 | 7.8 | 786 | 8.9 |
| Employment status at admission² | | | | | | |
| Unemployed (but able to work) | 8,301 | 33.1 | 6,087 | 42.4 | 2,050 | 23.1 |
| Employed (part-time, full-time) | 9,938 | 39.6 | 4,621 | 32.2 | 5,050 | 56.9 |
| Not employable - disabled, medical reasons, etc. | 1,119 | 4.5 | 616 | 4.3 | 467 | 5.3 |
| Student - not employed | 1,149 | 4.6 | 902 | 6.3 | 208 | 2.3 |
| Other - not employed | 1,304 | 5.2 | 969 | 6.8 | 307 | 3.5 |
| Unknown | 3,300 | 13.1 | 1,154 | 8.0 | 789 | 8.9 |
| Need indicated^{2,3} | | | | | | |
| Substance abuse (n = 18,866) | 15,400 | 81.6 | 10,241 | 90.4 | 4,310 | 67.2 |
| Attitude (n = 18,809) | 11,897 | 63.3 | 7,597 | 67.3 | 3,584 | 56.1 |
| Family/marital (n = 18,869) | 9,783 | 51.8 | 6,342 | 56.0 | 2,867 | 44.7 |
| Personal/emotional (n = 18,867) | 3,322 | 17.6 | 1,890 | 16.7 | 1,225 | 19.1 |
| Social interaction (n = 18,863) | 12,179 | 64.6 | 8,428 | 74.4 | 3,147 | 49.1 |
| Employment (n = 18,868) | 9,284 | 49.2 | 6,783 | 59.9 | 2,083 | 32.5 |
| Number of needs indicated^{2,4} | | | | | | |
| Zero to one | 2,624 | 14.0 | 884 | 7.8 | 1,551 | 24.3 |
| Two to three | 7,215 | 38.4 | 3,842 | 34.0 | 2,870 | 44.9 |
| Four | 4,551 | 24.2 | 3,167 | 28.0 | 1,141 | 17.8 |
| Five to six | 4,419 | 23.5 | 3,403 | 30.1 | 832 | 13.0 |
| Mean (Standard deviation) | 3.3 | (1.5) | 3.6 | (1.4) | 2.7 | (1.5) |
| Median | 3.0 | | 4.0 | | 3.0 | |

Table 1


**Characteristics of all persons involved in adult correctional services, by
Aboriginal identity, Saskatchewan, 1999/00 to 2003/04 – concluded**

| | Total ¹ | | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | |
|--|--------------------|------|------------|------|----------------|------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Most serious offence, First involvement | | | | | | |
| Violent offences | 11,480 | 45.8 | 7,249 | 50.6 | 3,409 | 38.5 |
| Serious violent offences ⁵ | 3,512 | 14.0 | 2,585 | 18.0 | 749 | 9.0 |
| Sexual offences ⁶ | 1,076 | 4.3 | 629 | 4.4 | 396 | 5.2 |
| Robbery | 685 | 2.7 | 477 | 3.3 | 176 | 2.5 |
| Common Assault | 4,705 | 18.8 | 2,815 | 19.6 | 1,438 | 21.4 |
| Other violent offences ⁷ | 1,502 | 6.0 | 743 | 5.2 | 650 | 10.4 |
| Property offences | 5,462 | 21.8 | 2,842 | 19.8 | 2,147 | 37.2 |
| Break and Enter | 1,643 | 6.5 | 1,009 | 7.0 | 530 | 11.8 |
| Theft and Possession of Property | 2,069 | 8.2 | 1,151 | 8.0 | 733 | 19.3 |
| Fraud | 1,140 | 4.5 | 393 | 2.7 | 641 | 18.8 |
| Other property offences | 610 | 2.4 | 289 | 2.0 | 243 | 7.1 |
| Offences against the Administration of Justice | 1,748 | 7.0 | 1,125 | 7.9 | 490 | 14.4 |
| Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences (excludes traffic) | 1,216 | 4.8 | 656 | 4.6 | 460 | 13.5 |
| <i>Criminal Code</i> - traffic offences | 2,990 | 11.9 | 1,533 | 10.7 | 1,262 | 37.0 |
| Drug offences | 1,312 | 5.2 | 492 | 3.4 | 706 | 20.7 |
| Other offences ⁸ | 876 | 3.5 | 433 | 3.0 | 391 | 11.5 |

Note: Consists of persons who completed at least one involvement.

1. Includes 1,892 (8%) cases where Aboriginal identity was unknown.

2. Refers to most recent status as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

3. Includes only those cases where need assessments were performed. Need level indicated as medium or high.

4. Includes only those cases in which all needs were assessed. Need is indicated as being present when the need is assessed as medium or high. Maximum number of needs is 6 and minimum is 0. N = 18,809, N (Aboriginal) = 11,296, N (Non-Aboriginal) = 6,394.

5. Includes homicide, attempted murder and major (non-sexual) assault.


6. Includes sexual assault (all levels) and other sexual offences.

7. Includes utter threats, criminal harassment, and other crimes against the person.

8. Includes other federal statute offences, provincial/territorial offences, and municipal bylaw infractions.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 2

|  Re-involvement status of 1999/00 release cohort to March 31, 2004, by selected characteristics, Saskatchewan | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|------------------|
| | Persons released | Persons failing | | Persons not failing (censored) ¹ | | Mean survival time in months ² | (Standard error) |
| | N | N | % | N | % | | |
| Total | 5,496 | 2,593 | 47.2 | 2,903 | 52.8 | 38.80 | (0.3165) |
| Aboriginal identity | | | | | | | |
| Aboriginal | 3,440 | 2,060 | 59.9 | 1,380 | 40.1 | 33.21 | (0.4051) |
| Non-Aboriginal | 1,722 | 493 | 28.6 | 1,229 | 71.4 | 45.03 | (0.4677) |
| Sex | | | | | | | |
| Male | 4,675 | 2,293 | 49.0 | 2,382 | 51.0 | 37.85 | (0.3463) |
| Female | 819 | 298 | 36.4 | 521 | 63.6 | 43.75 | (0.7361) |
| Age | | | | | | | |
| 24 and under | 1,632 | 859 | 52.6 | 773 | 47.4 | 35.02 | (0.5820) |
| 25-34 | 1,909 | 962 | 50.4 | 947 | 49.6 | 37.79 | (0.5373) |
| 35 and over | 1,955 | 772 | 39.5 | 1,183 | 60.5 | 41.63 | (0.4942) |
| Type of involvement³ | | | | | | | |
| Custody only | 1,647 | 942 | 57.2 | 705 | 42.8 | 33.84 | (0.5957) |
| Custody and community | 1,372 | 853 | 62.2 | 519 | 37.8 | 31.23 | (0.6322) |
| Community only | 2,477 | 798 | 32.2 | 1,679 | 67.8 | 44.27 | (0.3895) |
| Number of needs indicated⁴ | | | | | | | |
| Zero to One | 554 | 137 | 24.7 | 417 | 75.3 | 46.41 | (0.7248) |
| Two to Three | 1,726 | 744 | 43.1 | 982 | 56.9 | 40.82 | (0.5305) |
| Four | 1,154 | 710 | 61.5 | 444 | 38.5 | 32.05 | (0.6836) |
| Five to Six | 1,151 | 823 | 71.5 | 328 | 28.5 | 26.61 | (0.6895) |

1. Censored observations represent persons who have not returned to correctional services by the end of the data collection period.


2. The mean survival time and its standard error were underestimated because the largest observation was censored and the estimation was restricted to the largest event time.

3. Refers to characteristics of the involvement prior to release in 1999/00.

4. Includes only those cases where need assessments were performed. Number of needs indicated includes the number of needs indicated at the medium or high level. Refers to most recent assessment results as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 3

|  Re-involvement status of 1999/00 release cohort to March 31, 2004, by selected characteristics and Aboriginal identity, Saskatchewan | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|------|---|------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| | Persons released | Persons failing | | Persons not failing (censored) ¹ | | Mean survival time ² | (Standard error) |
| | N | N | % | N | % | | |
| Aboriginal | | | | | | | |
| Sex | | | | | | | |
| Male | 2,861 | 1,802 | 63.0 | 1,059 | 37.0 | 31.66 | (0.4434) |
| Female | 577 | 256 | 44.4 | 321 | 55.6 | 40.51 | (0.9195) |
| Age | | | | | | | |
| 24 and under | 1,054 | 701 | 66.5 | 353 | 33.5 | 28.79 | (0.7138) |
| 25-34 | 1,290 | 792 | 61.4 | 498 | 38.6 | 33.16 | (0.6545) |
| 35 and over | 1,096 | 567 | 51.7 | 529 | 48.3 | 36.47 | (0.6923) |
| Type of involvement³ | | | | | | | |
| Custody only | 1,153 | 781 | 67.7 | 372 | 32.3 | 29.05 | (0.6977) |
| Custody and community | 1,017 | 704 | 69.2 | 313 | 30.8 | 28.25 | (0.7158) |
| Community only | 1,270 | 575 | 45.3 | 695 | 54.7 | 39.06 | (0.5897) |
| Number of needs indicated⁴ | | | | | | | |
| Zero to One | 213 | 86 | 40.4 | 127 | 59.6 | 40.86 | (1.3523) |
| Two to Three | 1,007 | 546 | 54.2 | 461 | 45.8 | 36.16 | (0.7176) |
| Four | 853 | 584 | 68.5 | 269 | 31.5 | 29.13 | (0.7778) |
| Five to Six | 924 | 716 | 77.5 | 208 | 22.5 | 23.92 | (0.7351) |
| Non-Aboriginal | | | | | | | |
| Sex | | | | | | | |
| Male | 1,553 | 460 | 29.6 | 1,093 | 70.4 | 44.59 | (0.4995) |
| Female | 169 | 33 | 19.5 | 136 | 80.5 | 42.13 | (1.0246) |
| Age | | | | | | | |
| 24 and under | 480 | 139 | 29.0 | 341 | 71.0 | 41.48 | (0.8135) |
| 25-34 | 509 | 157 | 30.8 | 351 | 69.0 | 42.48 | (0.8581) |
| 35 and over | 733 | 196 | 26.7 | 537 | 73.3 | 45.94 | (0.6879) |
| Type of involvement³ | | | | | | | |
| Custody only | 456 | 154 | 33.8 | 302 | 66.2 | 39.34 | (0.8645) |
| Custody and community | 342 | 147 | 43.0 | 195 | 57.0 | 35.54 | (1.0944) |
| Community only | 924 | 192 | 20.8 | 732 | 79.2 | 48.62 | (0.5451) |
| Number of needs indicated⁴ | | | | | | | |
| Zero to One | 305 | 47 | 15.4 | 258 | 84.6 | 41.88 | (0.6534) |
| Two to Three | 603 | 184 | 30.5 | 419 | 69.5 | 41.54 | (0.7075) |
| Four | 250 | 119 | 47.6 | 131 | 52.4 | 35.65 | (1.3593) |
| Five to Six | 191 | 97 | 50.8 | 94 | 49.2 | 33.43 | (1.6336) |

1. Censored observations represent persons who have not returned to correctional services by the end of the data collection period.

2. The mean survival time and its standard error were underestimated because the largest observation was censored and the estimation was restricted to the largest event time.

3. Refers to characteristics of the involvement prior to release in 1999/00.

4. Includes only those cases where need assessments were performed. Number of needs indicated includes the number of needs indicated at the medium or high level. Refers to most recent assessment results as of the most recent involvement in correctional services.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Table 4

| | Total ¹ | | Aboriginal | | Non-Aboriginal | |
|--|--------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Total re-involved | 2,503 | 47.2 | 1,985 | 57.7 | 480 | 27.9 |
| Total number of re-involvements | | | | | | |
| mean (standard deviation) | 2.2 | (1.6) | 2.3 | (1.6) | 1.7 | (1.2) |
| median | 2.0 | | 2.0 | | 1.0 | |
| Length of first re-involvement | | | | | | |
| 1 to 90 days | 982 | 41.5 | 811 | 42.9 | 165 | 37.2 |
| 3 to 6 months | 339 | 14.3 | 281 | 14.9 | 53 | 12.0 |
| >6 months to 1 year | 486 | 20.5 | 373 | 19.7 | 103 | 23.3 |
| >1 year to 2 years | 437 | 18.4 | 331 | 17.5 | 94 | 21.2 |
| more than 2 years | 125 | 5.3 | 96 | 5.1 | 28 | 6.3 |
| First re-involvement, admitting legal status type^{1,2} | | | | | | |
| Sentenced Custody | 494 | 19.8 | 403 | 20.3 | 91 | 19.0 |
| Remand | 1,074 | 43.0 | 885 | 44.7 | 182 | 38.0 |
| Temporary Detention | 65 | 2.6 | 56 | 2.8 | 9 | 1.9 |
| Conditional Sentence | 314 | 12.6 | 250 | 12.6 | 59 | 12.3 |
| Probation | 480 | 19.2 | 330 | 16.6 | 125 | 26.1 |
| Bail Supervision | 72 | 2.9 | 58 | 2.9 | 13 | 2.7 |
| Most serious legal status type, all re-involvements^{1,2} | | | | | | |
| Sentenced Custody | 1,629 | 65.1 | 1357 | 68.4 | 267 | 55.7 |
| Remand | 370 | 14.8 | 287 | 14.5 | 79 | 16.5 |
| Temporary Detention | 20 | 0.8 | 16 | 0.8 | 4 | 0.8 |
| Conditional Sentence | 186 | 7.4 | 136 | 6.9 | 45 | 9.4 |
| Probation | 283 | 11.3 | 178 | 9.0 | 81 | 16.9 |
| Bail Supervision | 13 | 0.5 | 10 | 0.5 | 3 | 0.6 |

Note: Total includes cases where Aboriginal identity was unknown.

1. Includes rank-ordered most serious legal status type, and therefore types of legal statuses are mutually exclusive.

2. Because there were fewer than five individuals in the 'other community program' category, this category has been excluded.

Source: Integrated Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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