

Important Facts To Communicate

The corrections system is perhaps the most misunderstood part of Canada's criminal justice system. In the absence of factual information, fears about crime and misconceptions about how the system works are bound to grow. The following statistics provide an accurate, straightforward picture of the current situation, including crime rates, types of crime by category, a description of the federal offender population, conditional release outcomes, and the cost of maintaining a federal offender.

The following are key facts that may be important for you to communicate to your audience. They have been arranged to highlight important points that will follow in greater detail. You will find graphs and additional statistics to support these statements in the remainder of this section.

Incarceration Rate

- Canada's incarceration rate is higher than the rates in most Western European countries but much lower than the United States.

Crimes

- There were about 2.8 million crimes reported to police in 2003. Of those crimes reported to police, an estimated 310,000 (11%) resulted in a conviction.
- From an estimated 310,000 convictions in adult court, there were 4,281 (1.4%) offenders sentenced to federal jurisdiction.
- In 2003, the police-reported crime rate increased.
- Violent crime decreased from 1993 to 1999, increased slightly in 2000, and decreased again in 2003.

Federal Offender Population

- The federal offender population decreased by 12.5% from 1996-97 to 2003-04.
- The majority of offenders convicted of a new offence are serving their first federal sentence.
- The number of offenders with a previous (completed) federal sentence admitted into a federal institution for a new offence has remained steady at an average of 29% over the past five years.
- Inmates who escaped from federal institutions in 2003-04 represented less than 0.5% of the total average inmate population.

Conditional Release Outcomes

In 2003-04 the percentage of offenders who successfully completed:

- day parole was 84.7%
- full parole was 73.1%
- statutory release was 58.2%

Cost of Incarceration

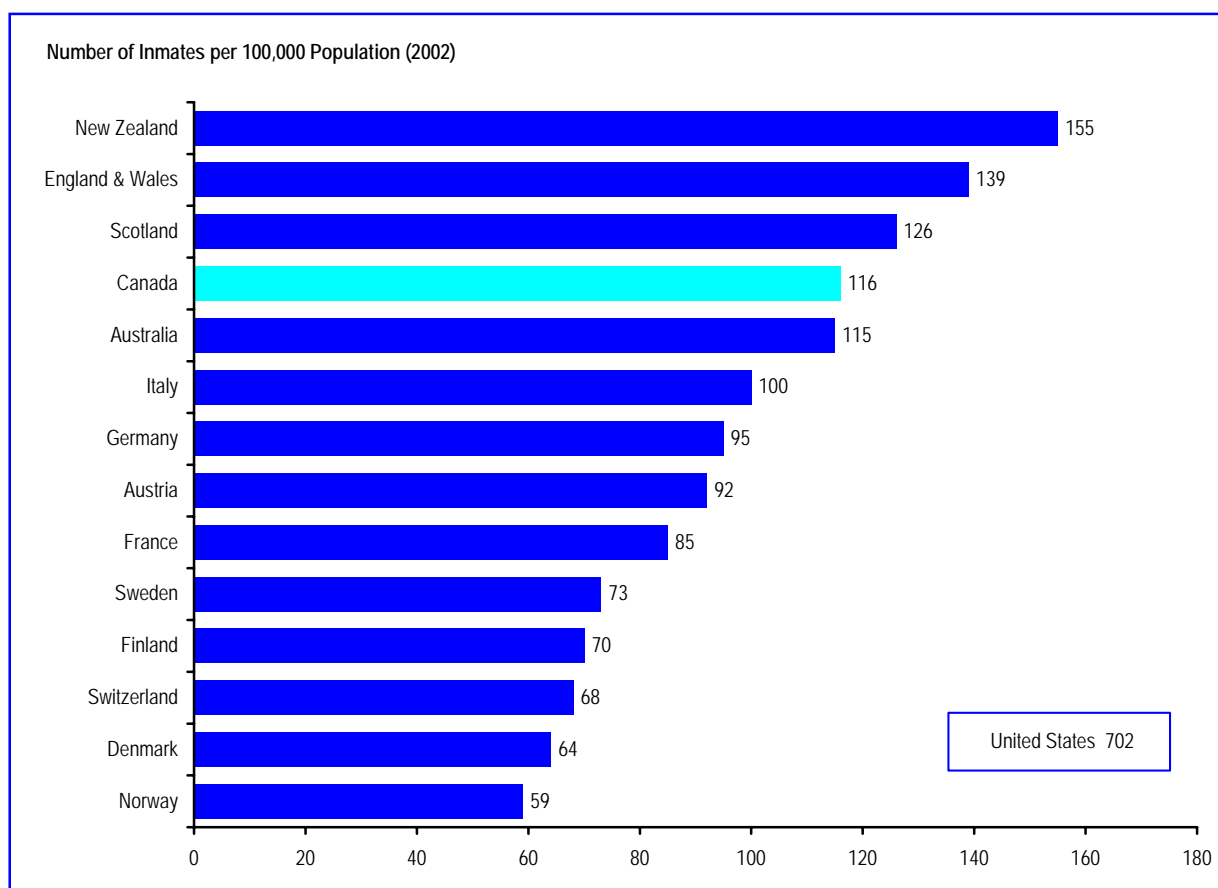
The average annual cost of incarcerating an inmate in a federal institution for 2003/2004:

- Men: \$80,965
- Women: \$150,867

1. Incarceration: An International Perspective

- In 2002, the incarceration rate in Canada was 116 per 100,000 population.
- Canada's incarceration rate is higher than the rates in most Western European countries but much lower than the United States, which had an incarceration rate of 702 per 100,000 general population in 2002.
- The incarceration rate decreased in Canada since the mid 1990's and has remained steady since 2000.

International Comparisons (2002)
Number of Inmates per 100,000 General Population



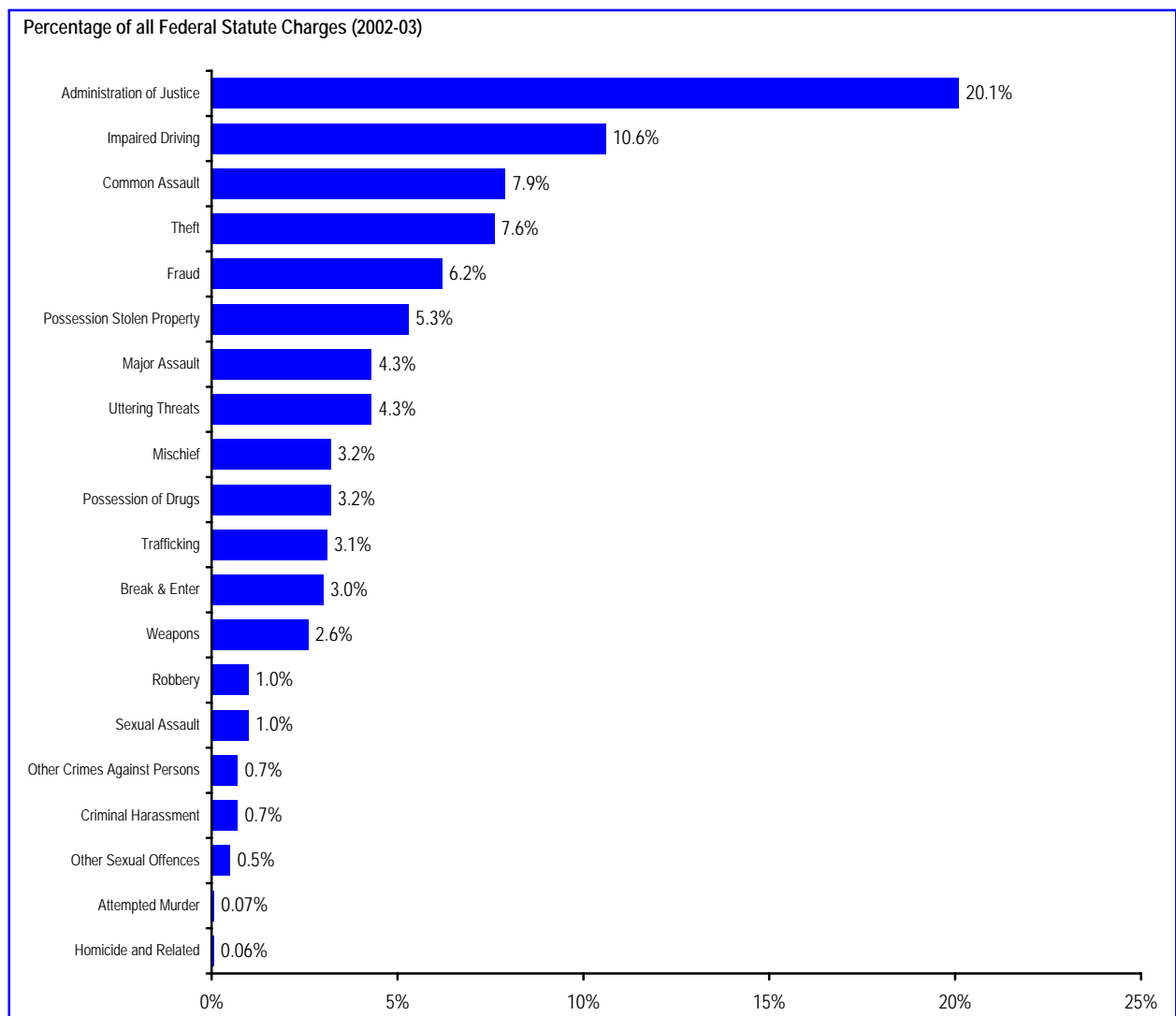
Source: Solicitor General Canada; World Prison Population List, Research Findings No. 166, Home Office Research, United Kingdom

Note: The incarceration rate is a measure of the number of people (i.e., adults and youth) in custody per 100,000 people in the general population. Different practice and variations in measurement in different countries limit the comparability of these figure

2. Types of Federal Charges

- The pattern of federal charges has been stable for the past five years.
- About 10% of the federal charges involve serious violence.*
- Apart from charges of administration of justice, impaired driving is the most common federal statute charge in adult provincial criminal courts.

Adult Charges (2002-03)



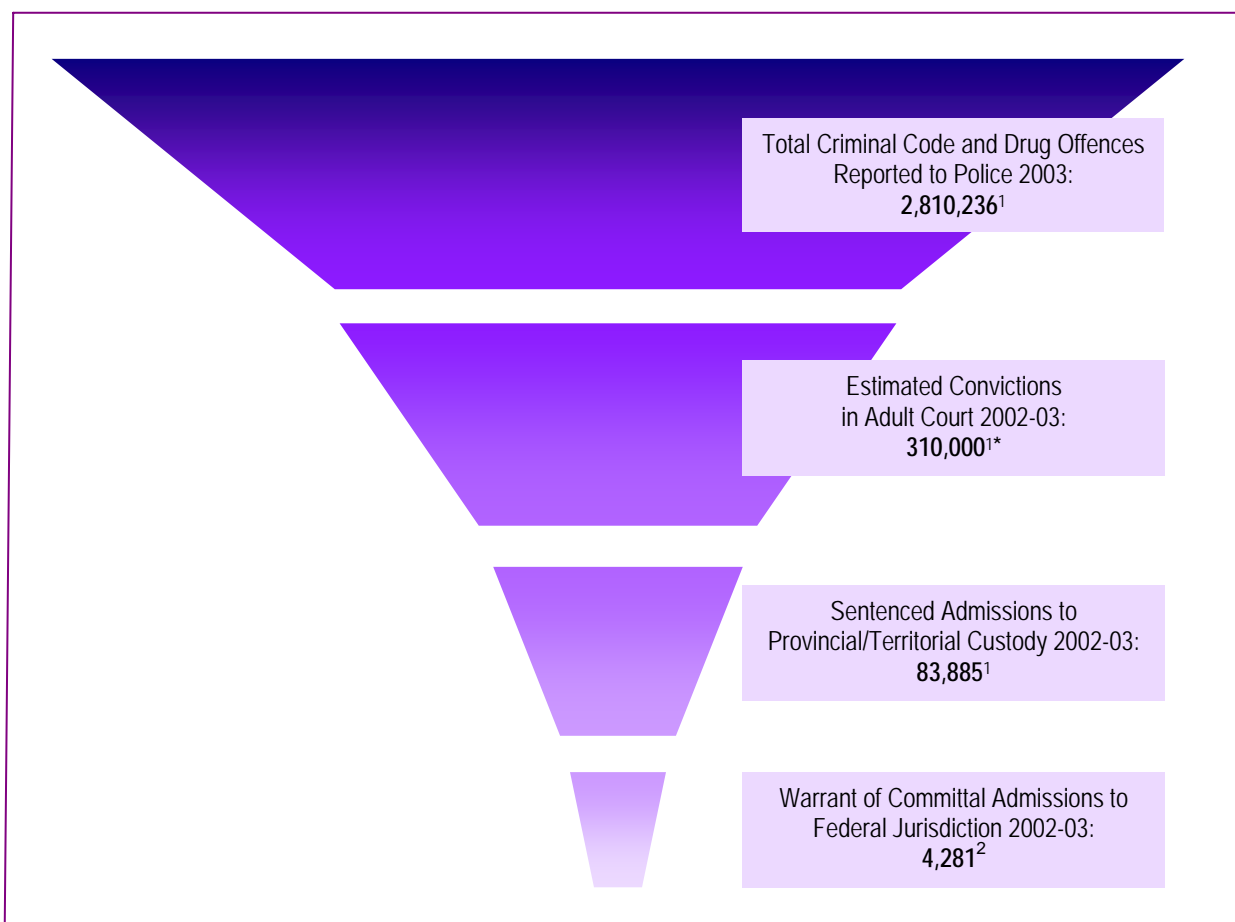
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

Note: *Serious violent offences include homicide and related offences, attempted murder, robbery, kidnapping, sexual assault, sexual abuse, major assault, abduction, arson, and weapons offences. This category excludes common assaults.

3. Crime and Incarceration

- There were about 2.8 million crimes reported to police in 2003.
- During the period of those reported crimes, an estimated 310,000 resulted in a conviction in 2002-03.
- From an estimated 310,000 convictions in adult court during 2002-03, 4,281 offenders were sentenced to federal jurisdiction.

Crime Outcomes (2002-03)



Source: ¹Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Adult Criminal Court Survey and Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada; ²Correctional Service Canada.

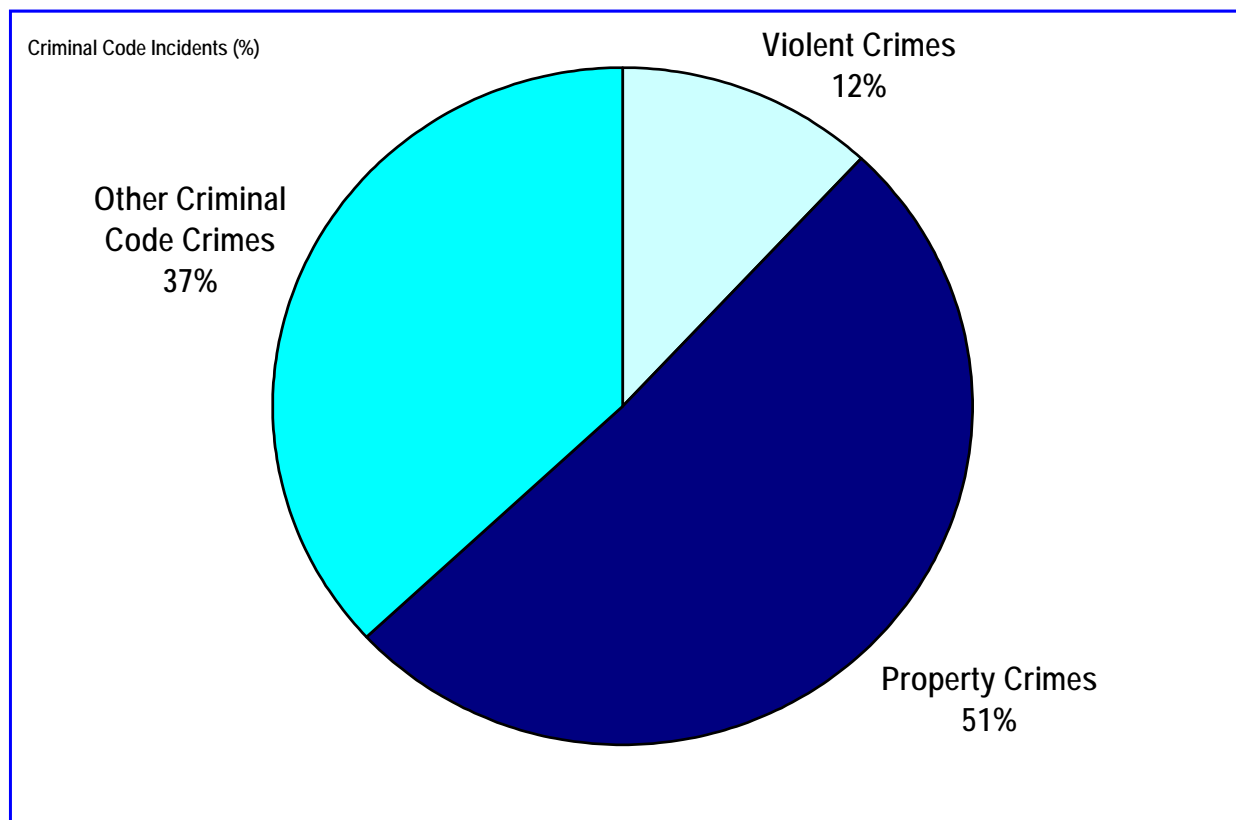
Note: Police data are reported on a calendar year basis whereas court and prison data are reported on a fiscal year basis (April 1 through March 31).

*Data adjusted to represent 100% survey coverage (from estimated 80% actual coverage), rounded to the nearest thousand. This figure includes only provincial court convictions.

4. Crime by Category

- There were 2.8 million *Criminal Code* incidents reported in 2003.
 - > 12% were violent crimes
 - > 51% were property crimes
 - > 37% were other *Criminal Code* crimes

A Breakdown of the *Criminal Code* Incidents Reported (2003)



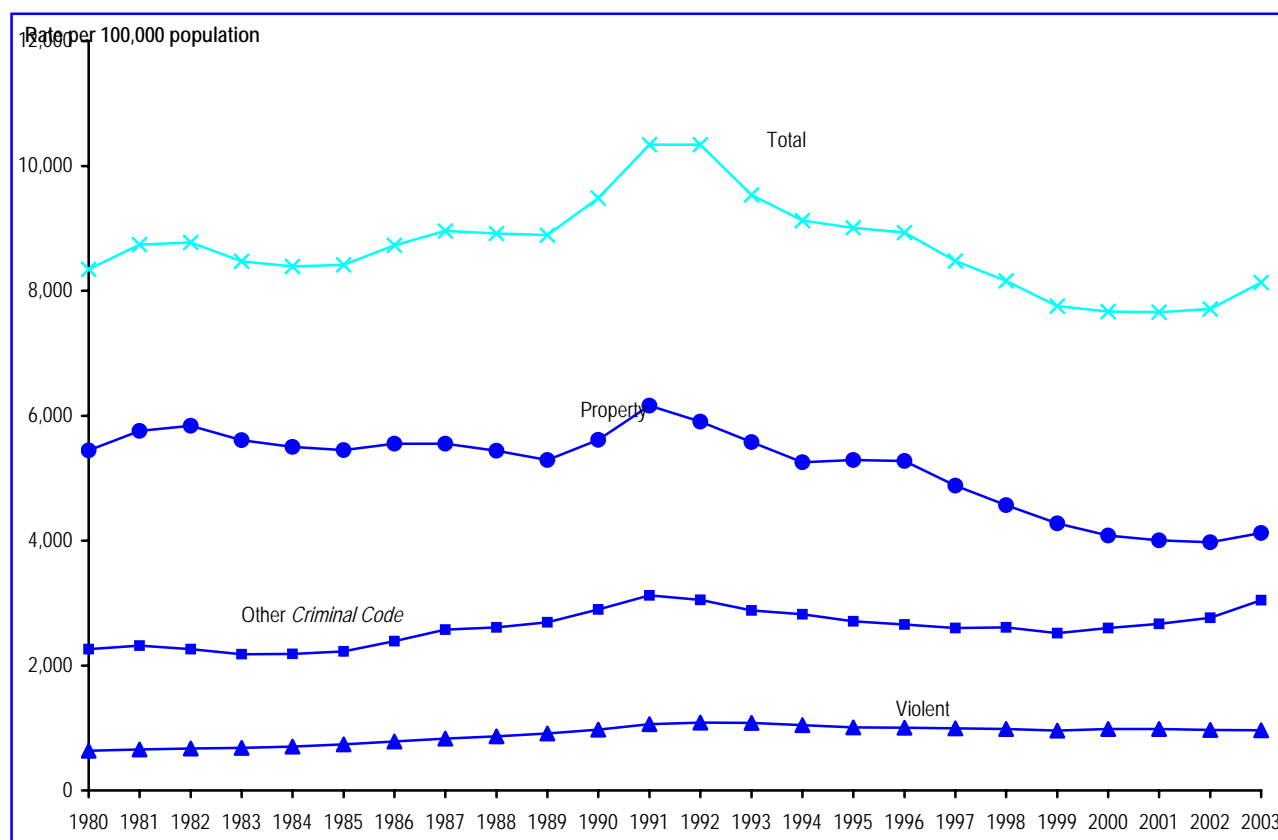
Source: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Note: Violent crimes include homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual offences, abduction and robbery. Property crimes include break and enter, motor vehicle thefts, other thefts, possession of stolen goods, and fraud. Other *Criminal Code* crimes include mischief, prostitution, arson, bail violations, disturbing the peace.

5. Trends In Crime

- Canada's crime rate has decreased steadily every year since 1991, but increased in 2003
- The police-reported crime rate has increased to 8,132/100,000 population in 2003.
 - > *Other Criminal Code* offences increased from 1999 to 2003.
 - > Violent crime decreased from 1993 to 1999, increased slightly in 2000, and decreased again in 2003.

Police Reported Crime Rate (1980-2003)



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

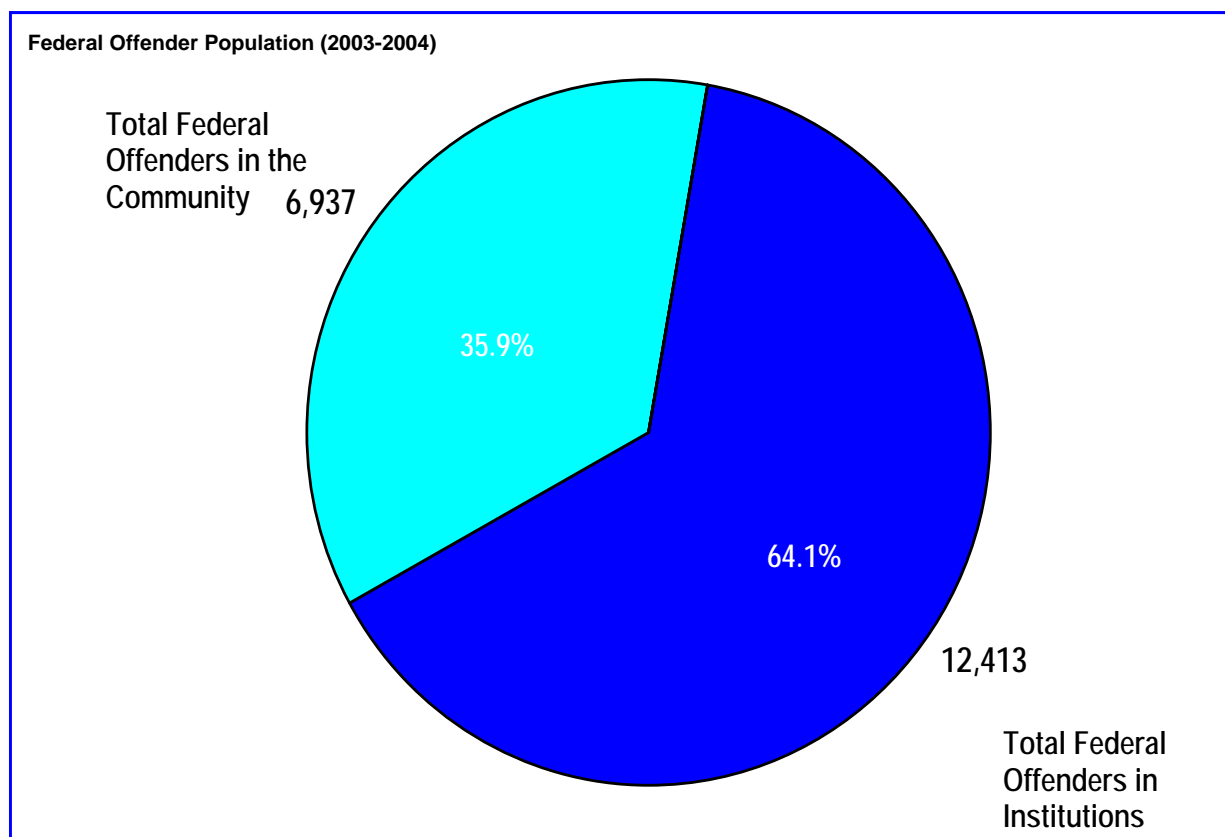
Note: **Violent crimes** include homicide, attempted murder, assault, sexual offences, abduction and robbery. **Property crimes** include break and enter, motor vehicle thefts, other thefts, possession of stolen goods, and fraud. These crime statistics are based on crimes that are reported to the police. Since not all crimes are reported to the police, these figures underestimate actual crime. **Other Criminal Code** offences include mischief, prostitution, arson, bail violations, disturbing the peace, etc.

6. Federal Offender Population

As of April 11, 2004 there were:

- 12,413 offenders incarcerated in federal institutions (64.1%)
- 6,937 offenders under supervision in the community (35.9%)

Federal Offender Population (2003-2004)



Source: Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview, December 2004

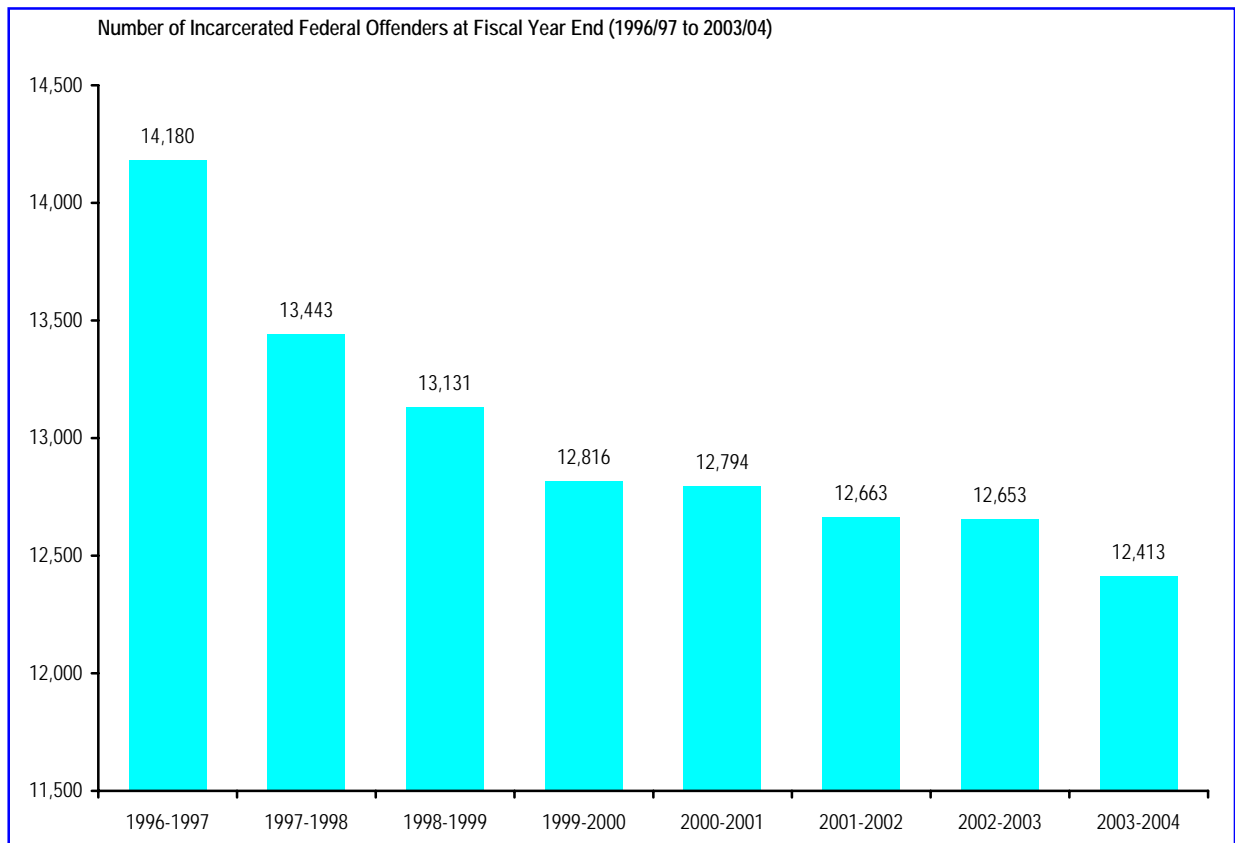
Note: **Federal Offenders in Institutions** includes men and women offenders serving a federal sentence (two years or more) in federal or provincial institutions. **Federal Offenders in the Community** includes federal offenders actively supervised on day parole, full parole or statutory release. The data does not include offenders whose conditional release has been suspended, offenders on long-term supervision orders, or offenders who have been deported.

The data reflect the number of offenders active at the end of each fiscal year. A fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

7. Federal Incarcerated Offender Population

- The federal offender population in custody decreased by 12.5% from 1996-97 to 2003-04.

Number of Incarcerated Federal Offenders at Fiscal Year End (1996/97 to 2003/04)



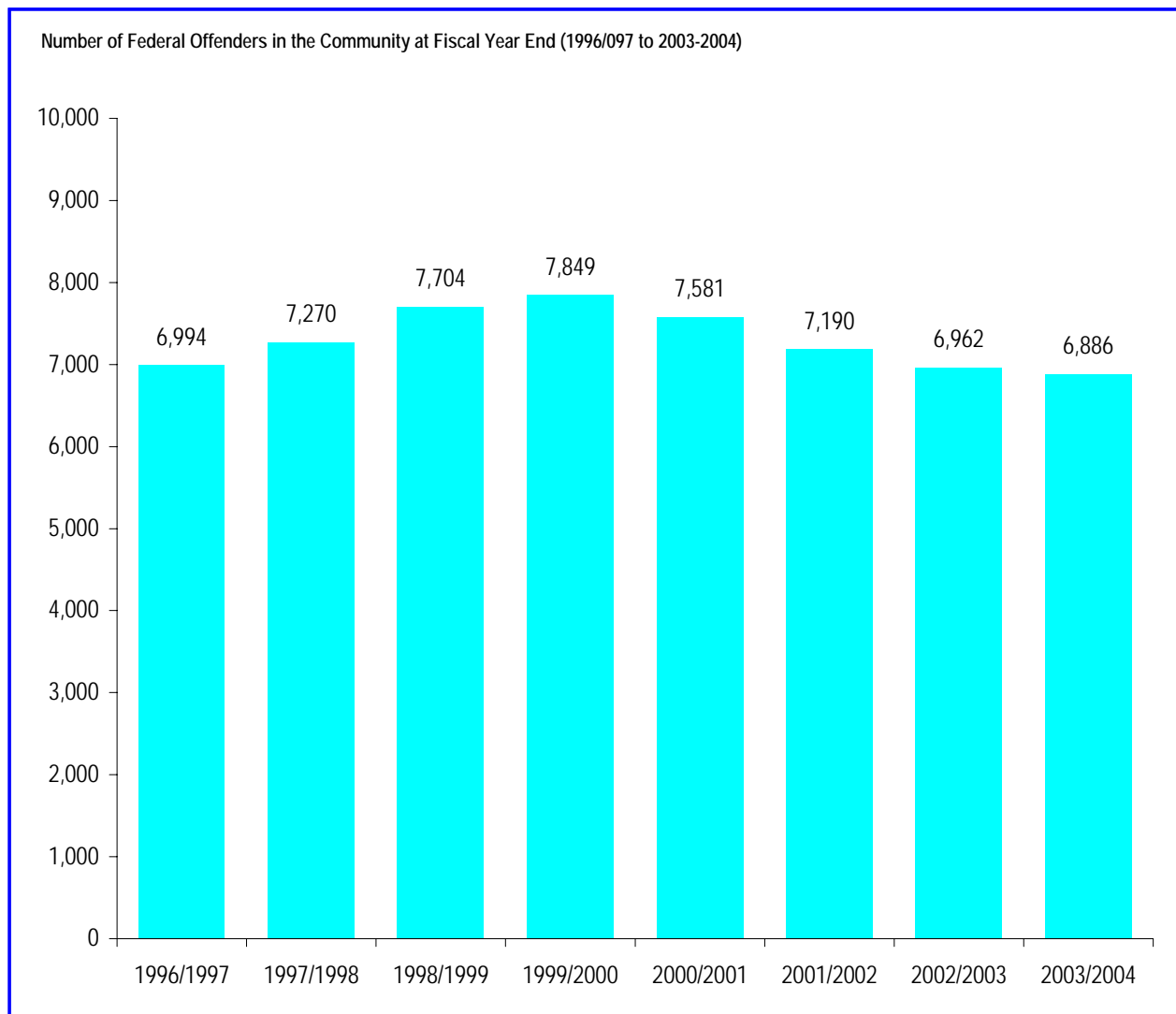
Source: Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview, December 2004

Note: The data reflect the number of offenders active at the end of each fiscal year. A fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

8. Federal Community Population

- The federal offender population in the community under active supervision increased from 1996-97 to 1999-2000. However, it has decreased in the last four years.

Number of Federal Offenders in the Community at Fiscal Year End (1996/97 to 2003/04)



Source: Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview, December, 2004

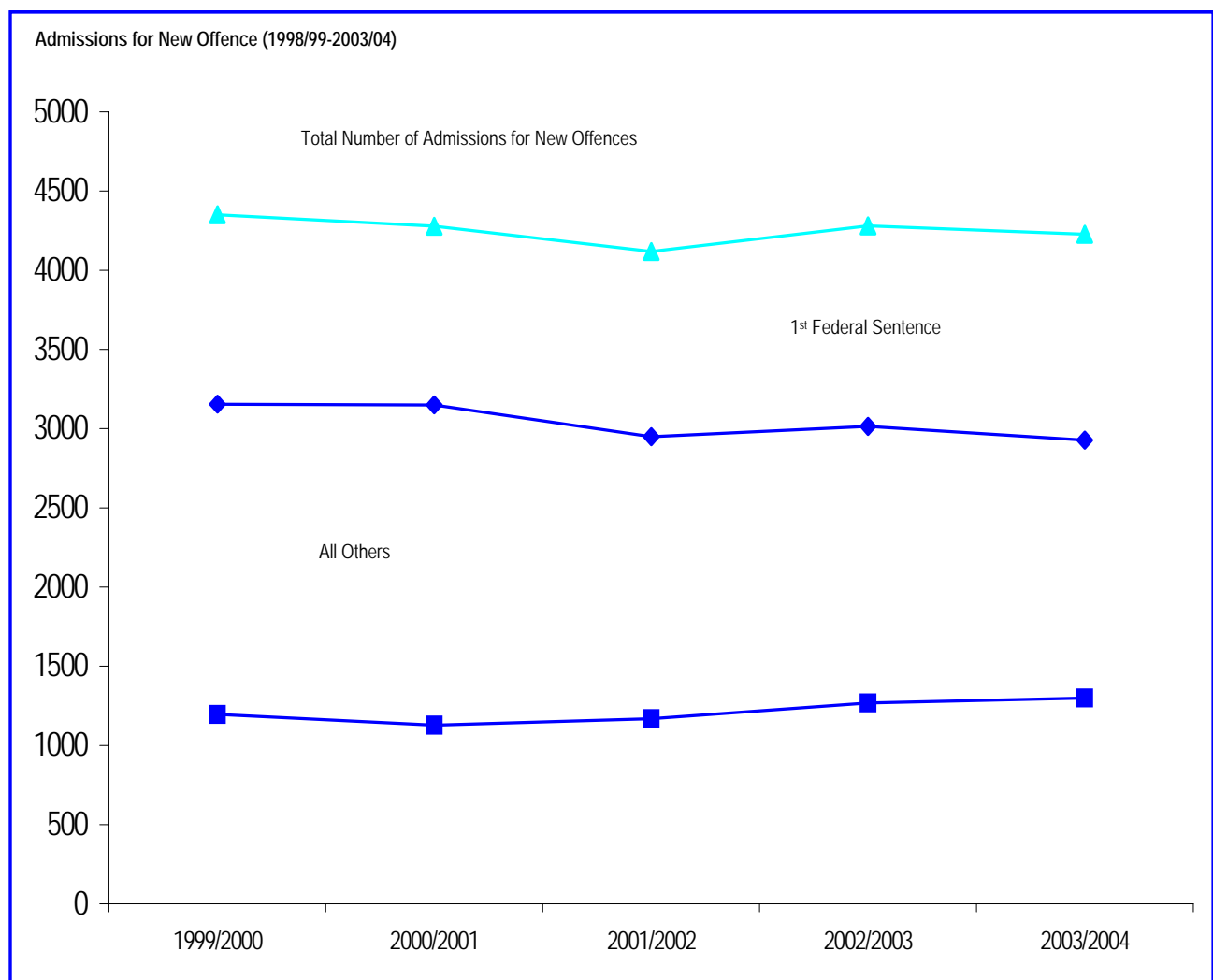
Note: Federal offenders in the community refers to those actively supervised on day parole, full parole or statutory release. The data does not include offenders whose conditional release has been suspended, offenders on long-term supervision orders, or offenders who have been deported.

The data reflect the number of offenders active at the end of each fiscal year. A fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

9. Admissions to Federal Jurisdiction

- The majority of offenders convicted of a new offence are serving their first federal sentence.
- The number of offenders with a previous (completed) federal sentence admitted into a federal institution for a new offence has remained constant at an average of 29% over the past five years.

Admissions from the Courts to Federal Jurisdiction (1998/99-2003/04)



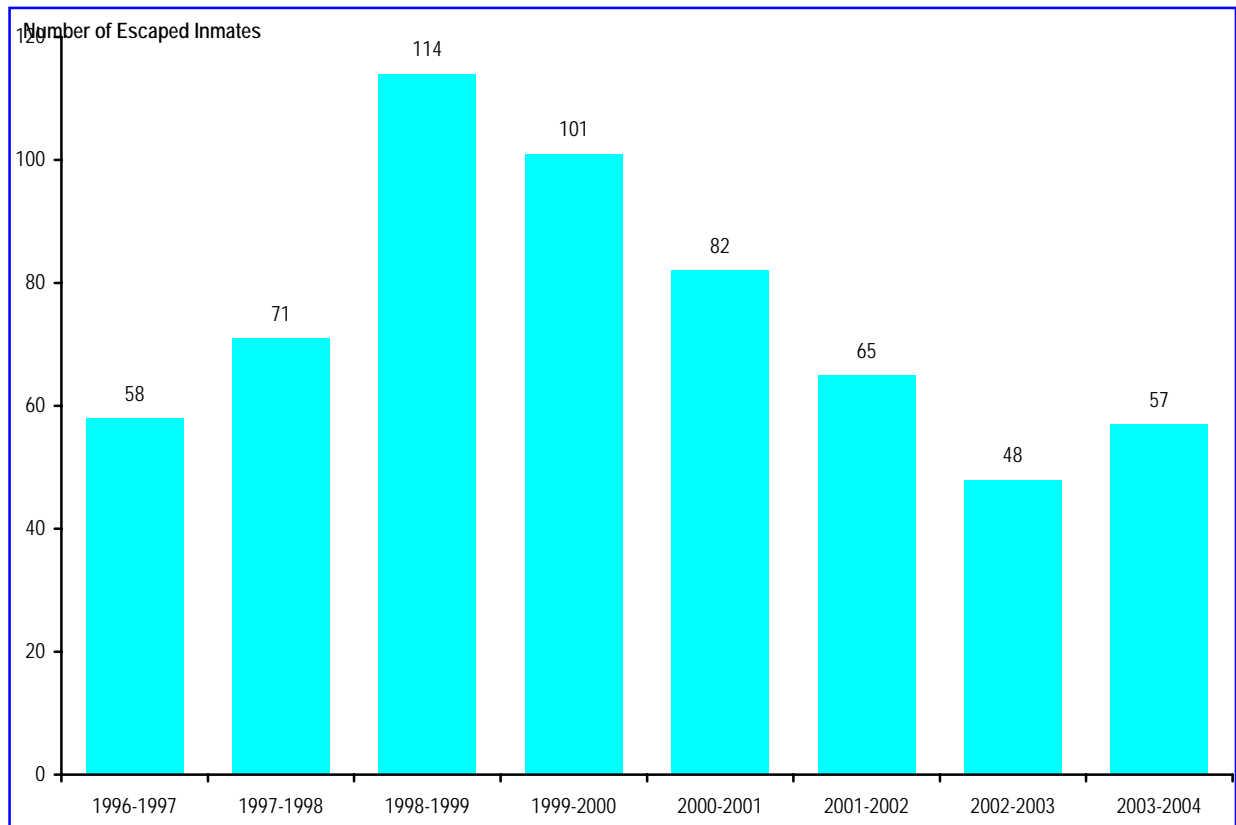
Source: Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview, December 2004

Note: These number refer to the federal jurisdiction admissions during each fiscal year. A fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

10. Escapes

- Inmates who escaped from federal institutions in 2003-04 represented less than 0.5% of the total average inmate population.

Escapes from Federal Custody (1996/97-2003/04)



Source: Security, Correctional Service Canada.

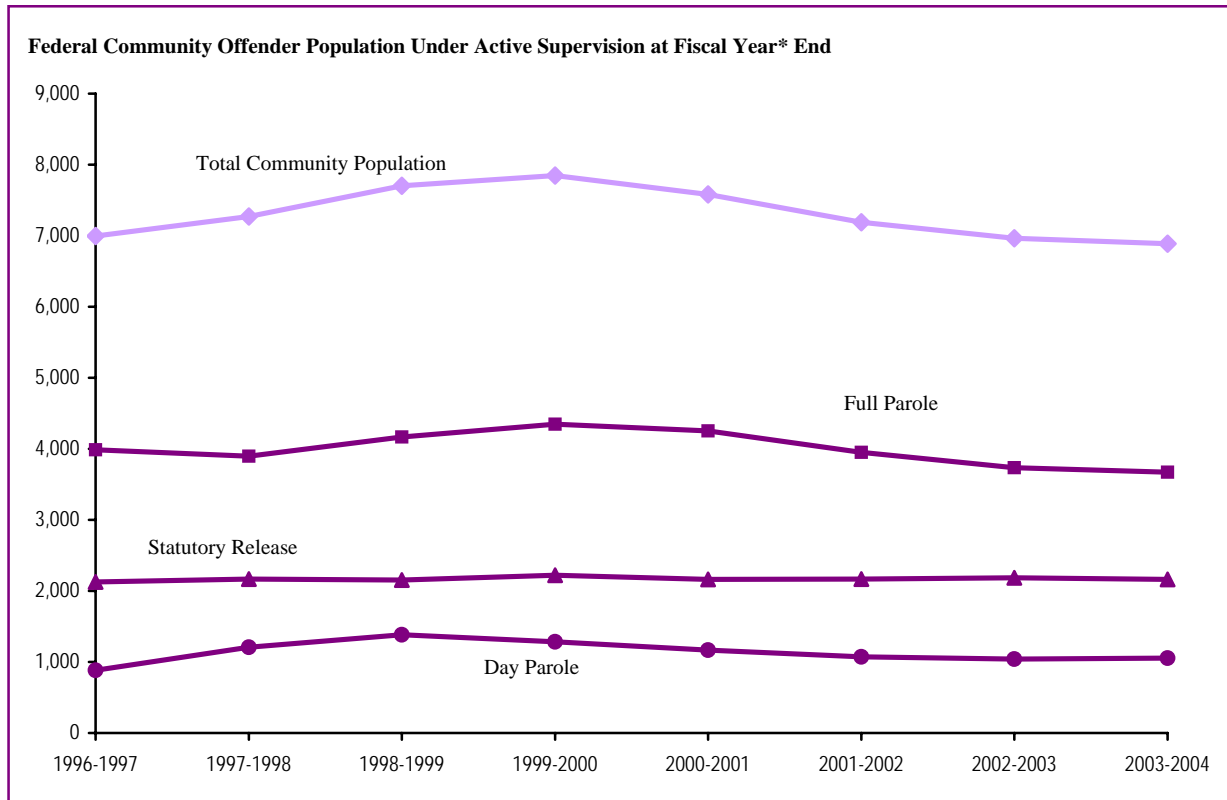
Note: An escaped inmate refers to an inmate who leaves the penitentiary without authorization or leaves the lawful custody of an escort.

11. Conditional Release

Trends in the Conditional Release Population

- The supervised federal offender population in the community increased from 1996-1997 to 1999-00 but has decreased in the last four years.
- The number of:
 - > **day paroles** increased from 1996/97 to 1998/99, have decreased from 1999/00 to 2002/03 and have increased in the last year
 - > **full paroles** have fluctuated over the past six years
 - > **statutory releases** have remained relatively stable

Federal Offenders Actively Supervised in the Community (1996/97-2003/04)



Source: Correctional Service Canada.

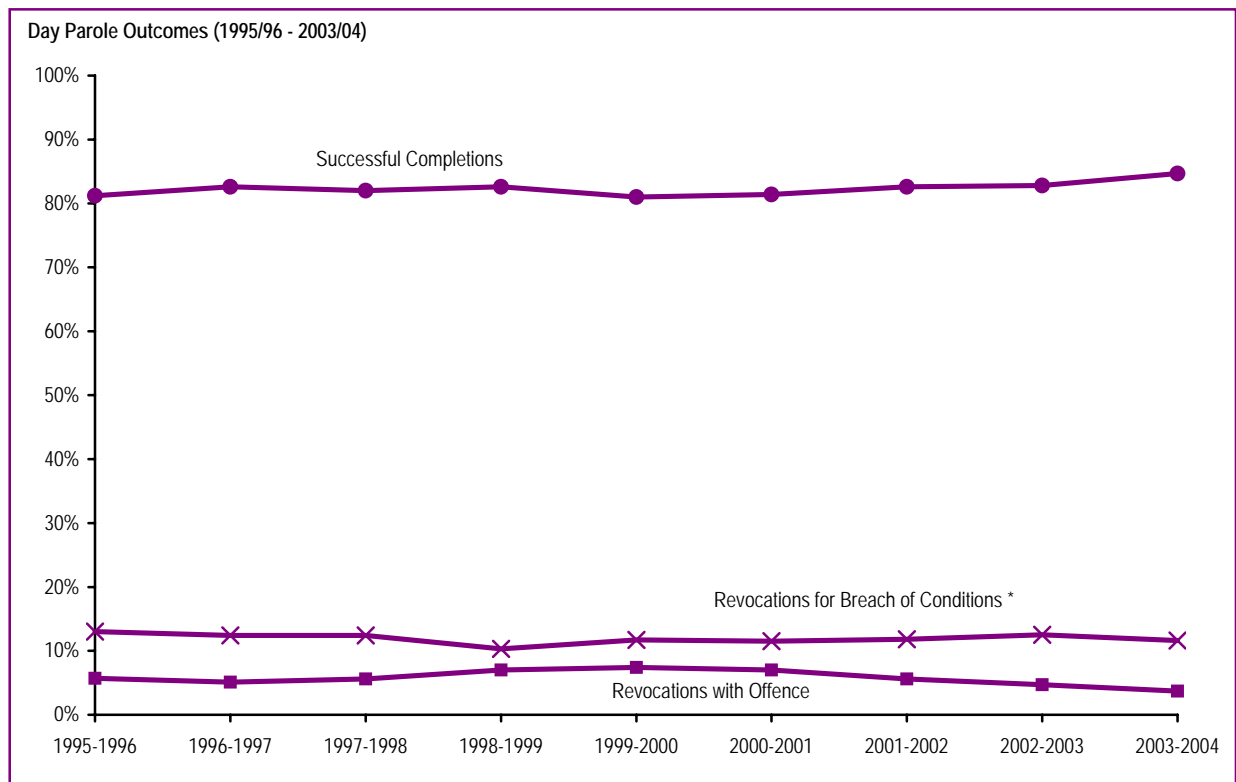
Note: **Day parole** is a type of conditional release in which offenders are permitted to participate in community-based activities in preparation for full parole or statutory release. The conditions require offenders to return nightly to an institution or half-way house unless otherwise authorized by the National Parole Board. **Full parole** is a type of conditional release granted by the National Parole Board in which the remainder of the sentence is served under supervision in the community. **Statutory release** refers to a conditional release that is subject to supervision after the offender has served two-thirds of the sentence. The data presented above does not include offenders whose conditional release has been suspended or those offenders who have been deported.

*A fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31 of the following year.

12. Outcomes of Day Parole

- The large majority of federal day paroles are successfully completed.
- The percentage of offenders who successfully completed day parole has been over 80% since 1995-96.

Outcomes of Day Parole (1995/96-2003/04)



Source: National Parole Board.

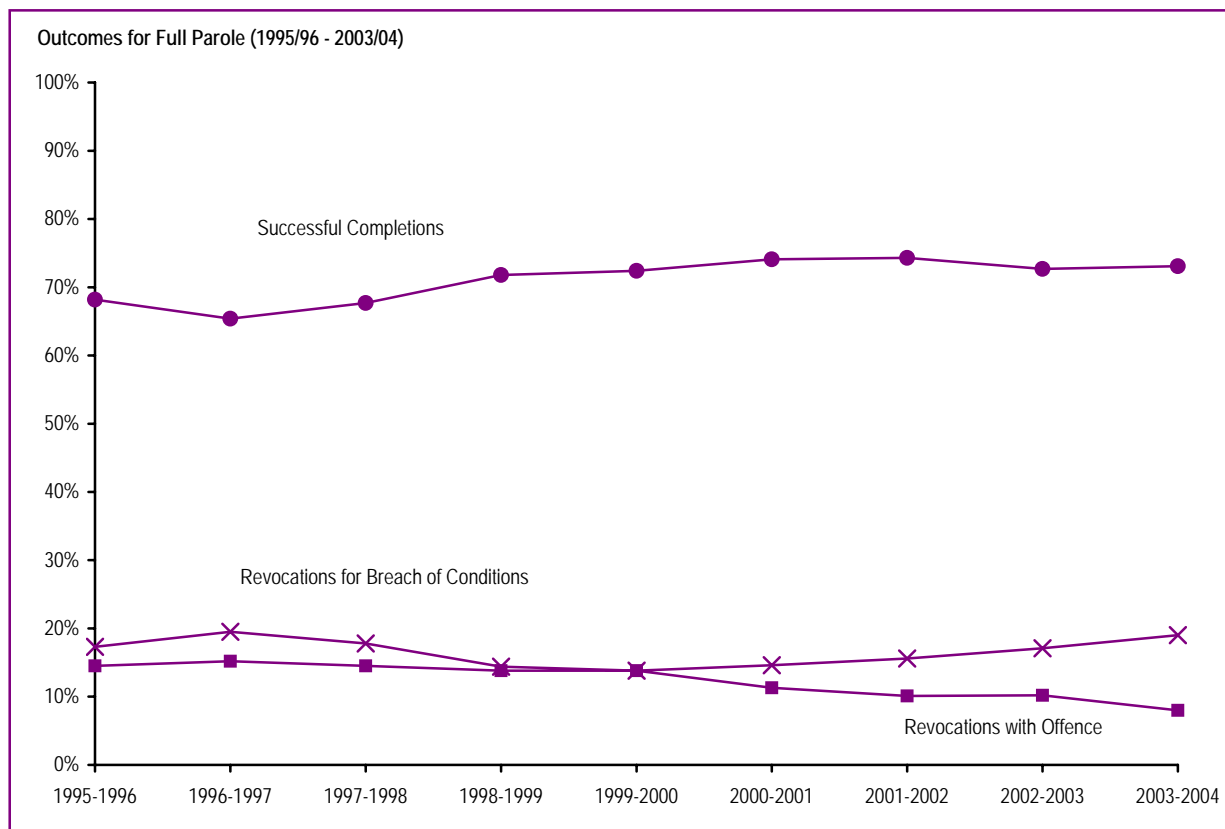
Note: A day parole is considered successful if it was completed without a return to prison for a breach of conditions or for a new offence. Day parole is a type of conditional release in which offenders are permitted to participate in community-based activities in preparation for full parole or statutory release. The conditions require offenders to return nightly to an institution or half-way house unless otherwise authorized by the National Parole Board. Eligibility for day parole release normally occurs 6 months prior to full parole. Eligibility for accelerated parole review cases occurs after the offender serves 6 months or 1/6 of the sentence, whichever is greater.

*Revocation for a Breach of Condition also includes revocation for outstanding charges.

13. Outcomes of Full Parole

- The majority of federal full paroles are successfully completed.
- The percentage of offenders who successfully completed full parole has remained relatively stable since 1998-99.

Outcomes of Full Parole (1995/96-2003/04)



Source: National Parole Board.

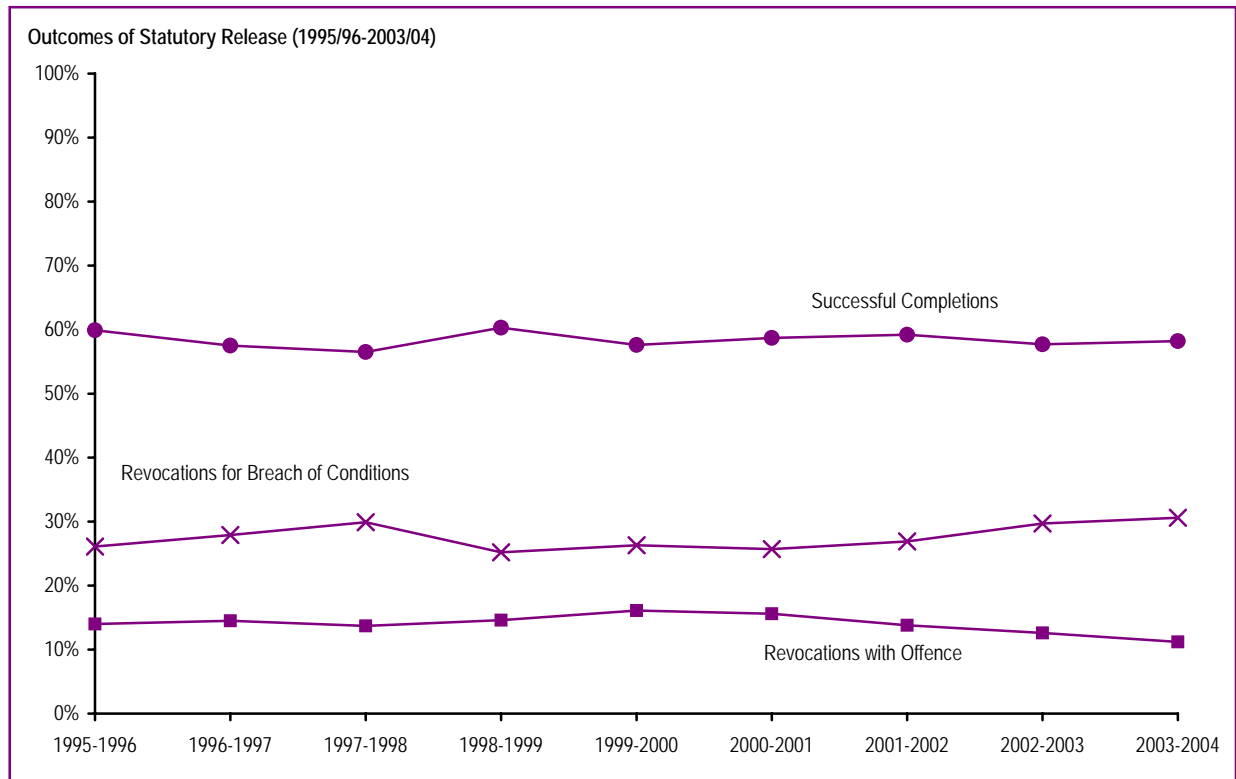
Note: A full parole is considered successful if it was completed without a return to prison for a breach of conditions or for a new offence.

These data do not include offenders serving life or indeterminate sentences as these offenders, by definition, remain under supervision for life.

14. Outcomes of Statutory Release

- The percentage of offenders who successfully completed statutory release ranged from 56.5% to 58.2% over the past seven years.

Outcomes of Statutory Release (1995/96-2003/04)



Source: National Parole Board.

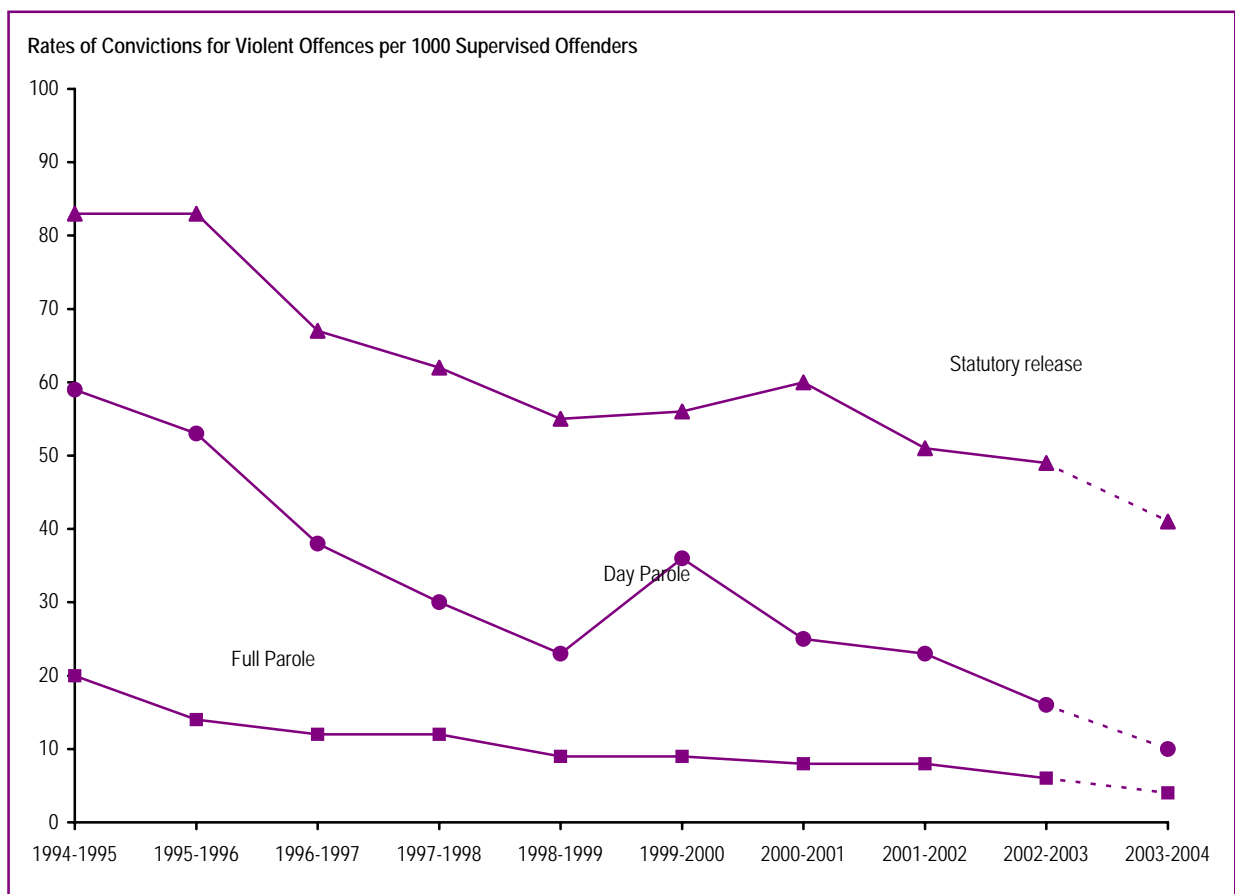
Note: A statutory release is considered successful if it was completed without a return to prison for a breach of conditions or for a new offence.

Statutory release refers to a conditional release that is subject to supervision after the offender has served two-thirds of the sentence.

15. Violent Offences and Community Supervision

- The rate of reconviction for violent offences* while under community supervision has declined since 1994-95.
- Those offenders under discretionary release (full parole and day parole) are less likely to be convicted of a violent offence while under supervision than those on statutory release.

Rates of Convictions for Violent Offences per 1000 Supervised Offenders (1994/95-2003/04)



Source: National Parole Board.

Note: *Violent offences include offences such as homicide, manslaughter, attempted murder, assault, sexual offences, abduction, robbery and weapon offences.

The dotted line between 2002-03 and 2003-04 is intended to signify that due to delays in the court process, these numbers under-represent the actual number of convictions, as verdicts may not have been reached by year-end

16. Cost of Incarceration

Federal Incarceration Costs

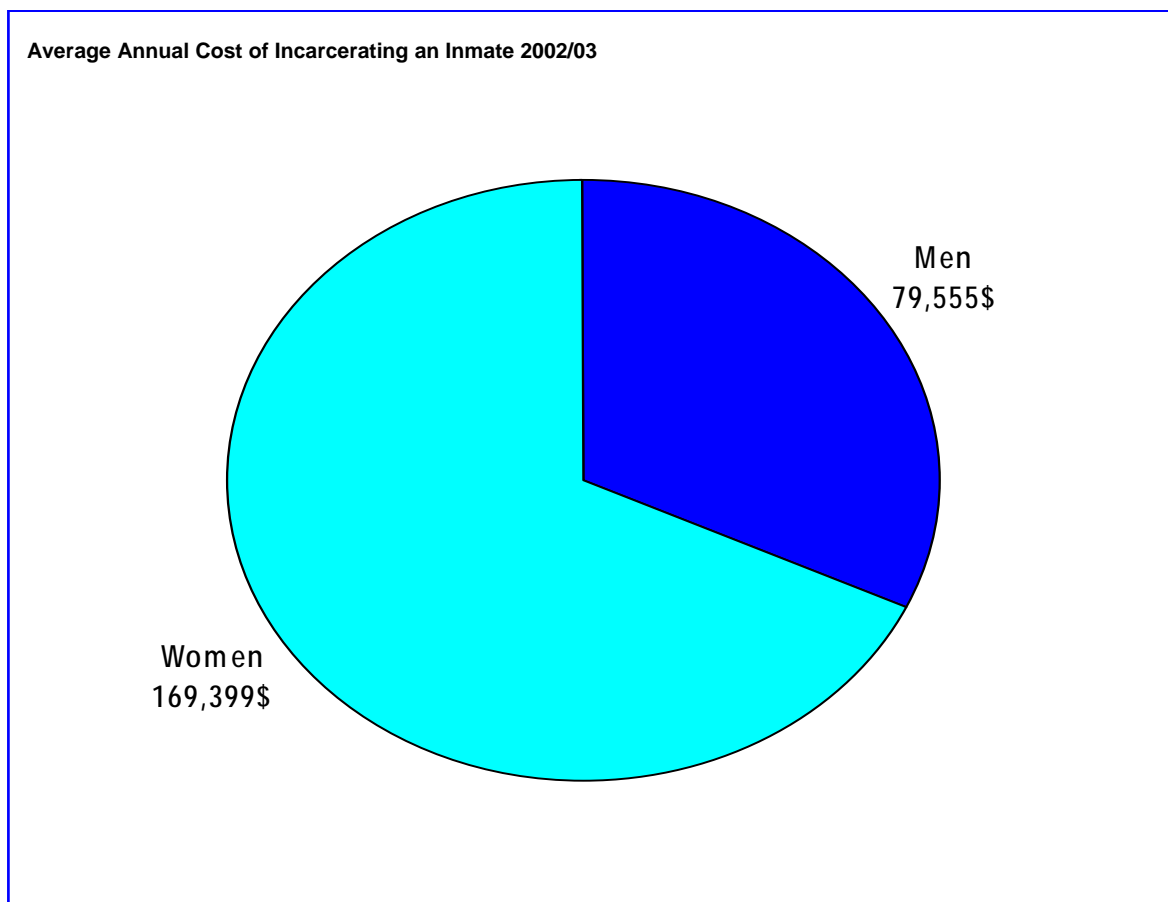
The average annual cost of incarcerating an inmate in a federal institution: \$81,206

- Men: \$79,555
- Women: \$169,399*

It costs substantially less to maintain an offender in the community than in a penitentiary:

- \$20,478 per year versus \$81,206

Average Annual Cost of Incarcerating an Inmate (2002-03)



Source: Public Accounts of Canada, Correctional Service Canada.

Note: The average daily inmate cost is based on those costs charged to and paid by the institutions. These costs represent the cost of operation of an institution and include salary and operating costs but exclude contributions to employee benefit plans, capital expenditures and expenditures relating to CORCAN, and other expenditures made centrally by National Headquarters.

*It costs more to incarcerate women largely because their numbers are fewer and because of the legal requirement to provide program and service equity.