

**Systemic Barriers – Correctional Service of Canada
Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts**

Recommendation 2:

CSC should provide the Committee with a report containing the following quarterly statistics:

- (1) the percentage of inmates serving sentences of four years or less with an identified program need who completed their program prior to first release; and
- (2) the median number of days from admission to start of first readiness program. These statistics are to be presented for all inmates, as well as specifically for men and women, members of visible minorities, and Indigenous and Black inmates. The first report is also to include the internal assessment of the effectiveness of reintegration programs for the Black offenders population.

Response:

The following table represents the percentage of the total number of offenders who completed a Nationally Recognized Correctional Program (NRCP) prior to first release per the total number of offenders who attained their first release with an identified NRCP need in fiscal year 2023-2024, broken down by quarter. The indicator is restricted to offenders serving a sentence of 4 years or less.

Percentage of the Total Number of Offenders who Completed a NRCP Prior to First Release Per the Total Number of Offenders who Attained Their First Release with an Identified NRCP Need in Fiscal Year 2023-2024			
	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Male	71.7%	73.4%	70.6%
Female	100.0%	92.4%	91.8%
Visible minority*	74.0%	76.0%	80.9%
Indigenous	65.4%	70.8%	67.5%
Black*	78.0%	73.9%	80.9%
Total Offenders	73.3%	75.8%	72.6%

*Note that these groups are not mutually exclusive.

(Source: Data Warehouse. Data current up at the end of the year)

In fiscal year 2023-24, CSC saw a significant improvement in results for offenders serving short sentences when compared to fiscal-year 2022-23. More specifically, the results improved from 65.5% in 2022-23. Additionally, throughout a fiscal year, it is normal to see fluctuations in results by quarter. It is of note that for both the visible minority group and the black offender group, the results are well above the national result at year-end.

The following table represents the median days from the date of first admission to federal custody to the start date of the first Nationally Recognized Correctional Program (NRCP) readiness enrolment for fiscal year 2023-2024, broken down by quarter. The indicator is restricted to offenders serving a sentence of 4 years or less who meet the criteria for a NRCP readiness program.

Median Days from the Date of First Admission to Federal Custody to the Start Date of the First Nationally Recognized Correctional Program Readiness Enrolment, for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, Broken Down by Quarter			
	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Male	100.0	99.0	80.0
Female	33.0	26.5	35.0
Visible minority*	102.0	83.0	68.0
Indigenous	112.5	129.0	119.0
Black*	95.0	83.0	68.0
Total Offenders	89.0	89.0	74.0

*Note that these groups are not mutually exclusive.

(Source: Data Warehouse. Data current up at the end of the year)

These reports are based on information entered in the Offender Management System and its accuracy depends upon the timeliness and accuracy of the data entered in the system.

The offenders themselves identify to which race they belong.

The quarterly data are distributed as follows: quarter 2 (from July 1 to September 30 2023), quarter 3 (from October 1 to December 31 2023) and quarter 4 (from January 1 to March 31 2024).

Effectiveness of Reintegration Programs for Black Offenders:

In response to the recommendation from the Auditor General of Canada, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) completed a reanalysis of the data from the Evaluation of Correctional Reintegration Programs. Specifically, the reanalysis examined the effectiveness of correctional reintegration programs (now called 'correctional programs') for Black offenders.

The analyses compared the outcomes of offenders who completed an Integrated Correctional Program Model program, with those who were eligible and did not participate in a program, and offenders who did not meet referral criteria and did not participate in a program. A total of 334 Black men were included (152 who completed programming, 56 eligible non-participants, and 126 in the no-program-need group), along with 3,675 non-Black offenders (1,456 program completers, 728 eligible non-participants, and 1,491 no-program-need).

Black men had more timely access to correctional programs than non-Black men prior to day parole eligibility. Otherwise, Black and non-Black men had similar results in the time to access and complete correctional programs. Completing a correctional program afforded Black and non-Black men a higher likelihood of obtaining discretionary release. Black men and non-Black men who completed a correctional program were more likely to obtain discretionary release compared with men who were eligible, but who did not participate in a correctional program. Preliminary evidence suggests that CSC correctional programs are effective for Black men.

Recommendation 4

CSC should provide the Committee with a report containing the following quarterly statistics:

(1) the percentage of men and women, Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders, visible minorities and Black offenders who are granted a discretionary release at the time of their first release; and

(2) the percentage of security level reassessments completed according to the timeframes specified in policy, for men and women, Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders, visible minorities and Black offenders who have successfully completed a correctional program.

CSC Response:

CSC conducts assessment activities and program interventions to support federal offenders' rehabilitation and facilitate their reintegration into the community as law-abiding citizens.

CSC ensures that classification decisions include a consideration of Indigenous Social History and that the Correctional Plan clearly identifies objectives for offenders to achieve a lower security classification.

The following report is based on information entered in the Offender Management System and its accuracy depends upon the timeliness and accuracy of the data entered in the system.

The offenders themselves identify to which race they belong.

A fiscal year starts on April 1 and ends on March 31 of the following year.

The quarterly data are distributed as follows: quarter 1 (from April 1 to June 30 2023), quarter 2 (from July 1 to September 30 2023), quarter 3 (from October 1 to December 31 2023) and quarter 4 (from January 1 to March 31 2024).

(1) The following indicator represents the percentage of offenders who were granted a discretionary release (Day or Full Parole) at the time of their first release from a federal institution per the total number of offenders released from a federal institution on their first release (Day Parole, Full Parole, Statutory Release, Long Term Supervision and Warrant Expiry) in fiscal year 2023-2024, broken down by quarter.

CSC will continue to work collaboratively with our partners to address any barriers that may be leading to discrepancies in the results for Indigenous and Black offenders.

Percentage of the Total Number of Offenders who Were Granted a Discretionary Release at the Time of Their First Release Per the Total Number of Offenders Released from a Federal Institution on Their First Release in Fiscal Year 2023-2024, Broken Down by Quarter

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Male	55.3%	57.0%	57.3%	54.8%
Female	73.9%	74.3%	82.8%	71.1%
Indigenous	47.9%	42.0%	48.6%	45.6%
Non-Indigenous*	60.5%	65.2%	64.5%	60.3%
Visible minority*	59.1%	61.2%	63.6%	60.2%
Black*	55.3%	48.2%	58.7%	54.6%
Total Offenders	56.9%	58.1%	59.9%	56.2%

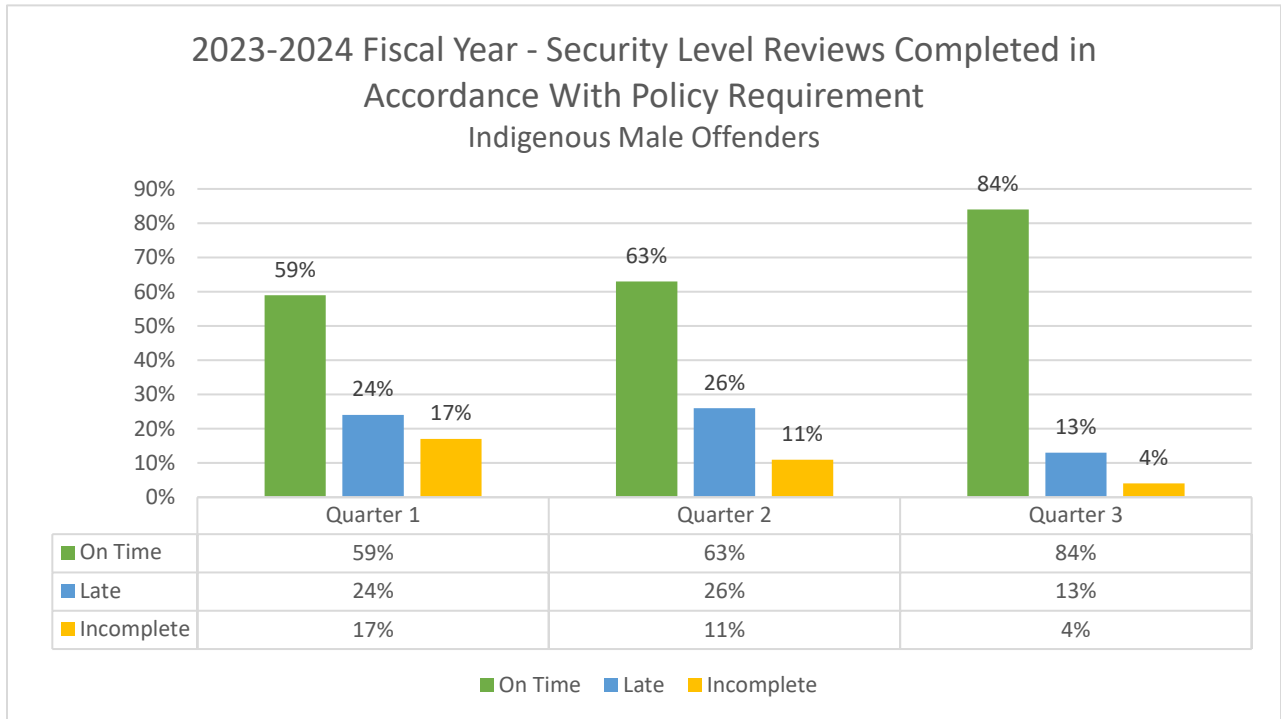
*Note that these groups are not mutually exclusive.

(Source: Data Warehouse. Data current up at the end of the year)

Commissioner’s Directive CD 710-6 Review of Inmate Security Classification specifies the following timeframes with respect to offenders who have successfully completed a correctional program:

For Indigenous inmates, a Security Classification Review (Security Reclassification Scale/Security Reclassification Scale for Women and Assessment for Decision) will be completed within thirty days of an inmate’s successful completion of a main program (based on the final Program Report date) for inmates classified at maximum or medium security level. This review is not required for an inmate serving a life sentence for first or second degree murder, or an inmate convicted of a terrorism offence punishable by life, who is currently classified as maximum security who has not had their first Security Classification Review, unless supported by the Case Management Team.

(2) The following tables represent the percentage of security level reassessments completed according to the timeframes specified in policy, for men and women, Indigenous offenders, who have successfully completed their identified correctional program.



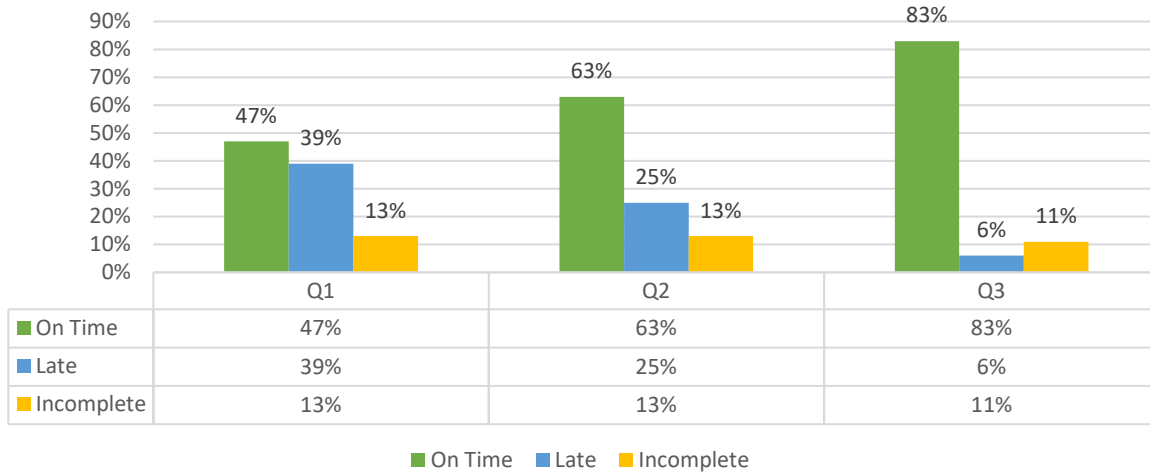
*Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

*As the policy requires the review to be completed within 30 days of program completion (based on the final program report), FY 2023-2024 Quarter 4 data will be available by June of 2024.

In Quarter (Q) 3 of FY 2023-2024, **84%** (n=92/110) of security classification reviews were completed within 30 days of successful correctional program completion by Indigenous male offenders; **13%** (n=14/110) were completed late; and **4%** (n=4/110) were incomplete (at the time of data extraction and review).

This represents an improvement compared to **Q2**, where the rate of security classification reviews completed within 30 days of successful program completion was **63%** (n=48/76), with **26%** (n=20/76) completed late and **11%** (n=8/76) incomplete.

**2023-2024 Fiscal Year - Security Level Reviews Completed in Accordance With Policy Requirement
Indigenous Female Offenders**



In **Q3** of FY 2023-2024, the rate of security classification reviews completed within 30 days of successful program completion for Indigenous female offenders was **83%** (n=15/18), with **6%** (n=1/18) completed late and **11%** (n=2/18) incomplete.

During the previous quarter (**Q2**), the rate of OSL's completed within 30 days of successful program completion was **63%** (n=10/16), with **25%** (n=4/16) completed late and **13%** (n=2/16) incomplete.