

**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:**

(1) 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 during quarter one of fiscal year 2024-2025. The indicator is restricted to offenders serving a sentence of 4 years or less.

| <b>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 the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b> |                  |
|--|------------------|
|  | <b>Quarter 1</b> |
| Male   | 73.2%            |
| Female   | 88.9%            |
| Visible minority*  | 73.7%            |
| Indigenous   | 64.8%            |
| Black*   | 72.7%            |
| <b>Total Offenders</b>   | <b>74.4%</b>     |

\*Note that these groups are not mutually exclusive.

(Source: Data Warehouse. Data current up to the extraction date: 2024-08-04)

It is important to note that in 2023-24, CSC saw a significant improvement in results for offenders serving short sentences when compared to fiscal-year 2022-23 (65.5%). The results for Q1 2024-25 also exceeded the combined average from the three quarters in 2023-24 (74.4% and 73.9%, respectively).

Additionally, fluctuations in results by quarter throughout a fiscal year are to be expected given that the numbers represent a three-month period disaggregated by small groups sizes.

(2) 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 quarter one of fiscal year 2024-2025. The indicator is restricted to offenders serving a sentence of 4 years or less who meet the criteria for a NRCP readiness program.

| <b>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 the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024-2025</b> |                  |
|--|------------------|
|  | <b>Quarter 1</b> |
| Male   | 69.0             |
| Female   | 20.0             |
| Visible minority*  | 67.0             |
| Indigenous   | 109.0            |
| Black*   | 67.0             |
| <b>Total Offenders</b>   | <b>67.0</b>      |

\*Note that these groups are not mutually exclusive.

(Source: Data Warehouse. Data current up to the extraction date: 2024-08-04)

In the first quarter fiscal year 2024-2025, the median number of days from the date of admission to federal custody to the start of the first NRCP readiness program was 20 days for women offenders and 69 days for men offenders. Since the second quarter of 2023-2024, CSC has seen a significant decrease in the median days from the date of first admission to the start date of the first NRCP readiness program.

These results are not comparable due to the difference in program models between women and men offenders.

The NRCP readiness program for women and men offenders have different program entry prerequisites and target groups. The readiness program for women offenders, also known as the Women Engagement Program, is an introductory program delivered to all women admitted into a federal institution, regardless of their risk level. Women offenders are generally able to participate in their readiness program quickly given that their correctional programming need does not require to be assessed prior to participation. The program content of the Women Engagement Program is applicable to all women offenders, not only those who require correctional programs. Specifically, the program aims to motivate and engage participants in the process of change and introduce social skills that will better support them in their new shared living environment. As well, women are provided the opportunity to identify problematic behaviours as well as coping strategies to help them live positive lifestyles.

In contrast, the readiness program for men offenders, known as the Primer, is designed to identify risk factors and prepare offenders for participation in a main program. Therefore, the Primer program is only delivered to men offenders with an assessed correctional programming need of moderate or high risk. Therefore, the correctional programming need of men offenders must be assessed in advance at intake, prior to their participation in the Primer program.

These reports are based on information entered in the Offender Management System and their accuracy is determined by the timeliness and precision of the data entered.

Information on demographics is based on offender's self-identification.

**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 is determined by the timeliness and accuracy of the data entered in the system.

The offenders themselves identify to which race they belong.

Quarter 1 includes data from April 1, 2024, to June 30, 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 the first quarter of fiscal year 2024-2025.

**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 the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

|                        | <b>Quarter 1</b> |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Male                   | 56.8%            |
| Female                 | 76.6%            |
| Indigenous             | 43.7%            |
| Non-Indigenous*        | 64.5%            |
| Visible minority*      | 62.4%            |
| Black*                 | 53.5%            |
| <b>Total Offenders</b> | <b>58.6%</b>     |

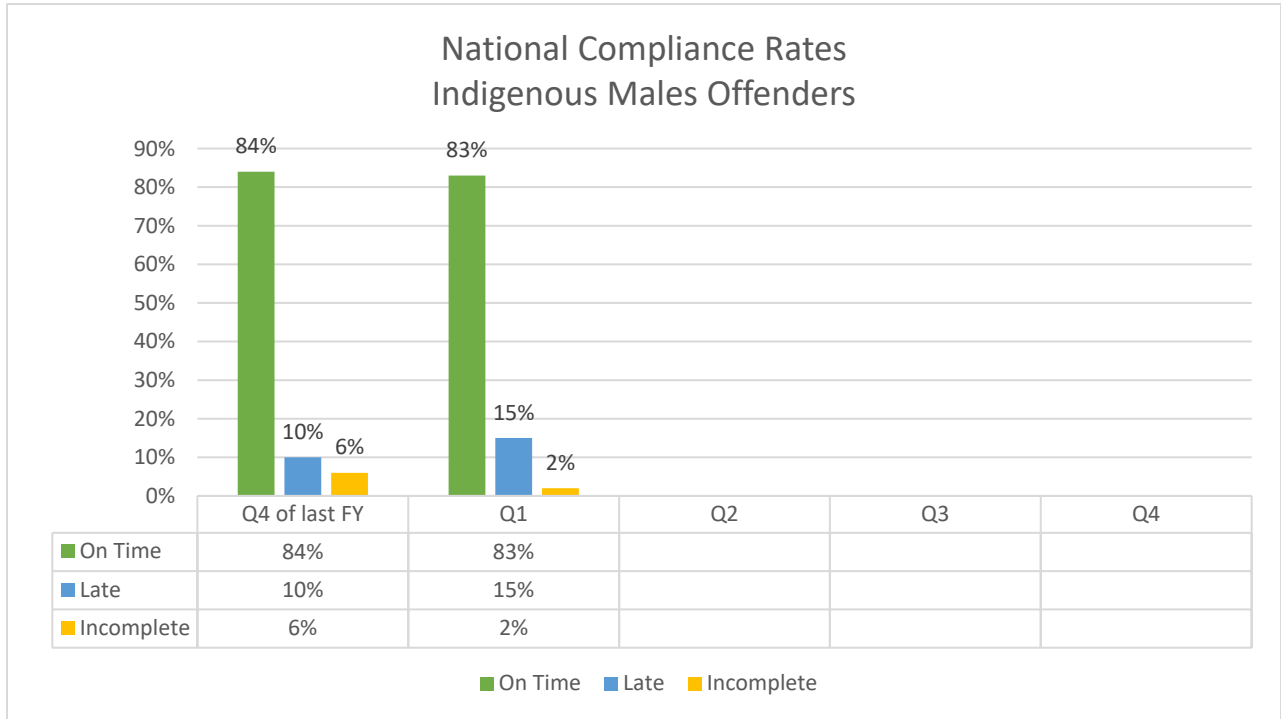
\*Note that these groups are not mutually exclusive.

(Source: Data Warehouse. Data current up to the extraction date 2024-08-04)

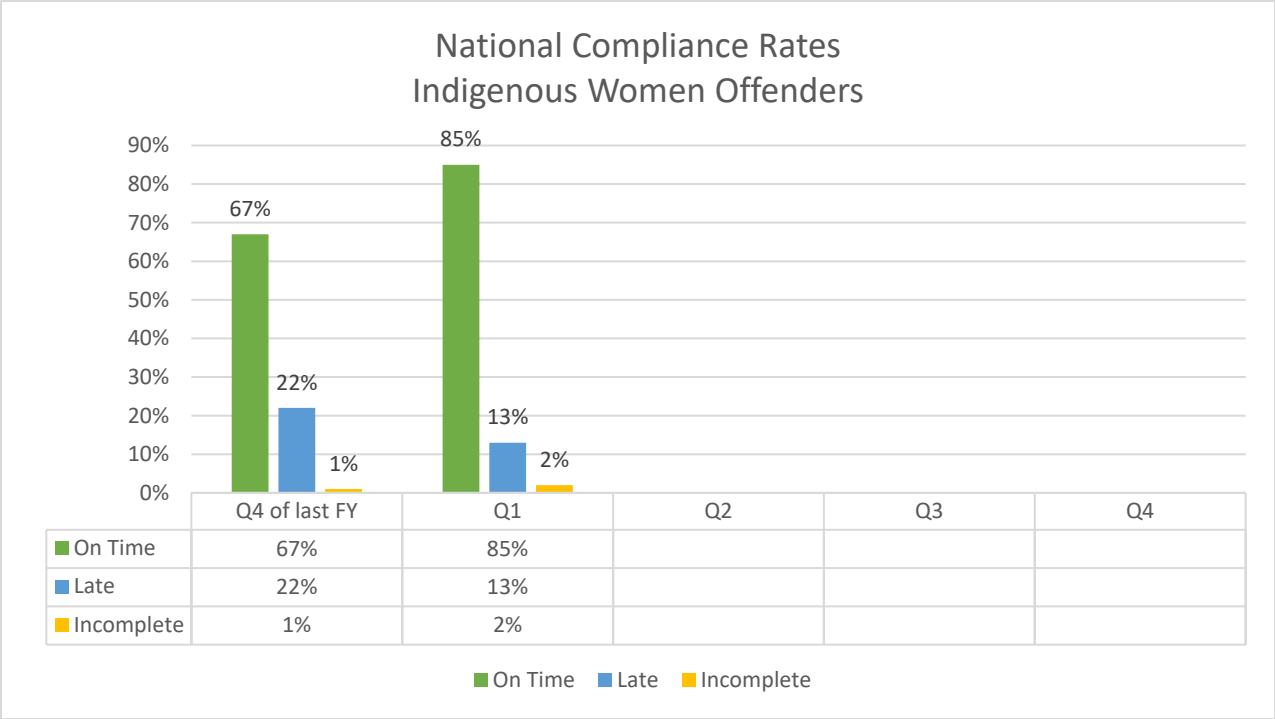
(2) Commissioner’s Directive CD 710-6 Review of Inmate Security Classification specifies the following timeframes with respect to offenders who have successfully completed a correctional program:

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.

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.



In Q1 of FY 2024-2025, 83% (n=157/188) of security classification reviews were completed within 30 days of successful correctional program completion by Indigenous male offenders; 15% (n=28/188) were completed late; and 2% (n=3/188).



In Q1 of FY 2024-2025, 85% (n=33/39) of security classification reviews were completed within 30 days of successful correctional program completion by Indigenous women offenders; 13% (n=5/39) were completed late; and 2% (n=1/39).