

PRESS RELEASE

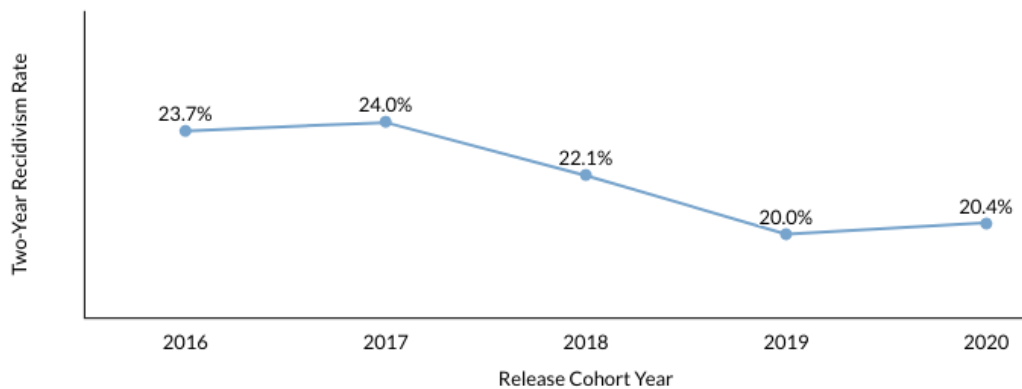
SPS Annual Statistics Release for 2022

In 2022, the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) continued to keep our prisons safe and maintain low recidivism rates.

Two-Year Recidivism Remained Low and Stable

2. The two-year recidivism rate for the 2020 release cohort remained low and stable at about 20 per cent (see Figure 1a).¹ It remains amongst the lowest globally (see Figure 1b).

Figure 1a : Two-Year Recidivism Rates for 2016-2020 Release Cohorts



¹ Recidivism rate is defined as the percentage of local offenders under the custody of the Singapore Prison Service, who were subsequently detained or sentenced to imprisonment or day reporting order within two years of release into the community.

Figure 1b : International Comparison of Two-Year Recidivism Rate

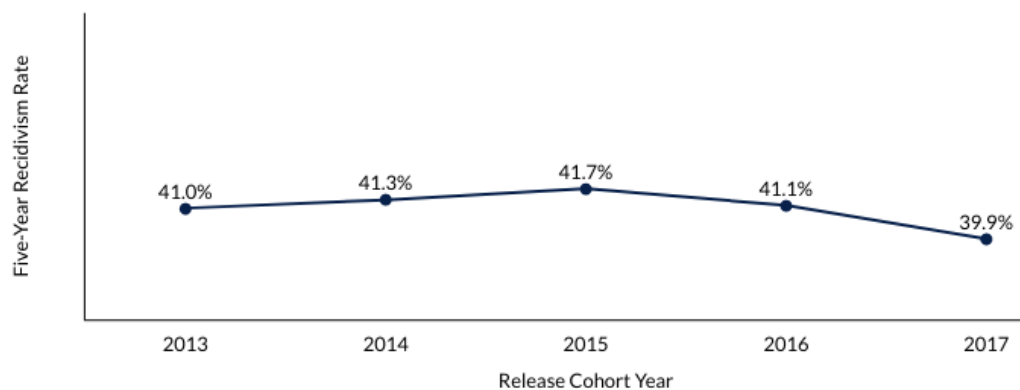
Country/Jurisdiction (Release Cohort Year)	Two-Year Recidivism Rate
Japan (2020)	15.1%
Singapore (2020)	20.4%
Hong Kong (2019)	20.9%
Denmark (2018)	31.3%
South Australia (2019)	33.2%
Western Australia (2019)	35.4%
New Zealand (2019)	35.8%
Scotland (2017)	36.9%
Queensland (2019)	42.6%

3. The low two-year recidivism rate is indicative of the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programmes provided to inmates while they served their sentence in prison, followed by structured community supervision by SPS and aftercare assistance provided by SPS’s community partners after they were released into the community.

Promoting Long-term Desistance

4. That said, more can be done. Ex-offenders may not remain crime or drug-free in the longer term. This is evident from the five-year recidivism rate that has remained around 40 per cent, albeit improving slightly for the two most recent release cohorts (see Figure 2). To address this, SPS and Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG) will work with our community partners to increase longer term support to ex-offenders.

Figure 2 : Five-Year Recidivism Rates for 2013-2017 Release Cohorts



5. Research by SPS shows that many ex-offenders go through multiple attempts to remain crime or drug-free before eventually succeeding. Those who successfully desist are able to recognise and internalise the consequences of their actions on themselves and others, make **intentional lifestyle shifts to lead more prosocial lives**, and **actively participate in structured prosocial events and activities**.

6. Through **community corrections**, SPS and YRSG, alongside community partners, provide structured reintegration support to inmates serving the tail-end of their sentence in the community under supervision. This structured support, which includes counselling, befriending services, employment assistance, and housing and financial assistance, **helps start the offenders' journey towards desistance. After supervision, the reintegration support from our community partners for them and their families must continue.**

Mobilising the Community to Reduce Long-term Recidivism

7. Ex-offenders, like other vulnerable Singaporeans, may face challenges in managing day-to-day issues such as employment, finances and family relations. Therefore, it is critical to **build a sustainable ecosystem of support in the community** involving community partners, employers, families and government agencies to promote desistance, and eventually lower the five-year recidivism rate.

8. SPS and YRSG will continue to make efforts to galvanise the community to strengthen support for ex-offenders and their families, by growing new collaborations, and deepening existing partnerships.

Throughcare Volunteers

9. Volunteers complement SPS's rehabilitation efforts through providing structured religious and secular programmes, as well as offering reintegration support upon inmates' release. At present, SPS has about 4,000 volunteers, including about 1,100 volunteers from the Yellow Ribbon Community Project (YRCP) who are grassroots volunteers visiting the families of inmates to offer assistance and support. SPS also works closely with many other organisations and volunteers involved in aftercare and supporting ex-offenders and families, such as the volunteers of CARE Network agencies.

10. SPS has doubled training spaces for new volunteers from 700 in 2021, to over 1,400 in 2022, to better equip volunteers to work with inmates and supervisees. Training is focused on befriending skills, individual and family work, self-care, and knowledge on corrections.

11. 12 religious organisations have come on board our Throughcare Volunteer Framework to provide throughcare support to inmates upon their release.² There are also about 16 other secular agencies (about one-third of all secular partners working with SPS) involved in providing throughcare

² The 12 religious organisations are Buddhist Fellowship, Singapore Buddhist Federation (SBF), Sikh Welfare Council (SIWEC), The Hindu Centre (THC), Muneeswaran Community Services Ltd (MCS), SANA Hindu RGV, Loving Hand Fellowship (LHF), Prison Fellowship Singapore (PFS), Christian Counselling Services (CCS), Roman Catholic Prison Ministry (RCPM), Family and Inmates Through-care Assistance Haven (FITRAH) and Persatuan Ulama dan Guru-Guru Agama Islam Singapura (PERGAS). In the throughcare approach, inmates' risks and needs are addressed while in prison, and followed through in the community upon their release.

support to inmates. SPS will be seeking to expand our volunteer pool for both incare and aftercare, and our collaborations with our throughcare volunteers.

Desistor Network

12. SPS will be forming a **Desistor Network** (DN) in the second quarter of 2023, comprising ex-offenders who have remained crime-free for an extended period of time. Desistors are powerful sources of inspiration for inmates and ex-offenders alike in their reintegration journey. DN will also provide avenues for ex-offenders to connect through events and formation of interest groups to extend prosocial support to one another.

Enhancing Employability of Inmates and Ex-Offenders

13. Stable employment is a key factor of successful desistance. YRSG adopts a comprehensive approach to employment by preparing inmates and ex-offenders for the workforce through skills training, career placement services, and career retention support by career coaches. In 2022, YRSG provided employment assistance to more than 2,500 inmates. 94 per cent of these assisted inmates secured jobs. These jobs were largely in wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, administrative and support services, and accommodation and food services industries.

Conclusion

14. SPS and YRSG need the continuous support and partnership of the community to strengthen inmates and ex-offenders' desistance from crime and drugs, promote their successful rehabilitation and reintegration, and advocate for second chances for them.

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About the Singapore Prison Service (SPS)

As an agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs and a key member of the Home Team, SPS enforces the secure custody of inmates and rehabilitates them for a safer Singapore. SPS's team of *Captains of Lives* – comprising uniformed officers and civilian staff – works closely with inmates, their family, aftercare agencies, community partners and volunteers. The Captains of Lives inspire and steer inmates to take ownership of their rehabilitation and be responsible and contributing citizens.

With its world-class prison system and evidence-informed correctional practices, SPS was awarded the Singapore Quality Award with Special Commendation in 2012 and 2019 – a recognition of its dedication to the secure custody and effective rehabilitation of inmates. SPS, YRSG and community partners work closely to keep the recidivism rate in Singapore low and stable.

About Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG)

YRSG is a statutory board under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It was established in 1976 as the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) and rebranded as YRSG on 1 May 2020.

YRSG adopts a multi-faceted approach to prepare ex-offenders for reintegration into society and re-join the national workforce. These include initiatives to help them develop skills and long-term careers through partnerships with industry, as well as initiatives to garner community support and acceptance of ex-offenders.

YRSG works with more than 7,000 like-minded partners. Our collective efforts have contributed to the low and stable recidivism rate in Singapore.

YRSG will continue to advocate for ex-offenders, raise awareness of the challenges they face, and bring the private, public and people sectors together for their successful reintegration and contribution back to society.

For more information, refer to YRSG's website at <http://www.yellowribbon.gov.sg>.

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Singapore Prison Service Annual Statistics for 2022

Total Offender Population in Prisons and in the Community³

Offender Population	2020	2021	2022
Incare	9,242	8,160	7,660
Community Corrections	3,426	3,402	2,920
Total	12,668	11,562	10,580

Two-Year Recidivism Rates⁴

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2018	Release Cohort 2019	Release Cohort 2020
Overall	22.1%	20.0%	20.4%
Penal ⁵	21.4%	19.1%	18.5%
Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) ⁶	25.9%	24.5%	26.1%

Five-Year Recidivism Rates⁷

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2015	Release Cohort 2016	Release Cohort 2017
Overall	41.7%	41.1%	39.9%
Penal ⁸	40.0%	40.3%	38.8%
Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) ⁹	48.9%	44.3%	45.2%

³ The figures are as at 31st December of the respective years.

⁴ Two-year recidivism rate is defined as the percentage of local offenders under the custody of the Singapore Prison Service, who were subsequently detained or sentenced to imprisonment or day reporting order within two years of release into the community.

⁵ This refers to the recidivism rates for inmates in SPS's custody who have been sentenced to imprisonment by the Courts.

⁶ This refers to the recidivism rates for inmates in SPS's custody who have been admitted to the Drug Rehabilitation Centre to undergo treatment and rehabilitation.

⁷ Five-year recidivism rate is defined as the percentage of local offenders under the custody of the Singapore Prison Service, who were subsequently detained or sentenced to imprisonment or day reporting order within five years of release into the community.

⁸ This refers to the recidivism rates for inmates in SPS's custody who have been sentenced to imprisonment by the Courts.

⁹ This refers to the recidivism rates for inmates in SPS's custody who have been admitted to the Drug Rehabilitation Centre to undergo treatment and rehabilitation.

Convicted Penal Inmate Population¹⁰

Category		2020	2021	2022
Total Convicted Penal Population		6,934	5,945	5,038
Gender	Male	6,249	5,374	4,574
	Female	685	571	464
Age Group¹¹				
	19 & below	164	138	107
	20-29	1,167	1,015	872
	30-39	1,488	1,343	1,168
	40-49	1,655	1,298	1,064
	50-59	1,608	1,364	1,155
	60-64	557	478	370
	65-69	213	223	223
	70-74	71	65	55
	75 & Above	11	21	24
Education Level¹²				
	No Education	102	92	64
	Primary	2,051	1,656	1,326
	Secondary	3,426	2,938	2,471
	Pre – U	257	251	265
	Vocational	732	650	575
	Tertiary and Above	366	358	337
Main Offence Group¹³				
	Crimes Against Person	692	702	726
	Property Crimes	712	639	579
	Commercial Crimes	370	343	336
	Drug Offences	4,646	3,682	2,867
	Immigration Offences	23	24	41
	Crime Against Public Order	138	171	174
	Customs Offences	186	160	159
	Traffic Offences	52	88	65
	Other Offences ¹⁴	115	136	91

¹⁰ Convicted penal inmate population refers to the number of sentenced inmates who were in SPS's custody on 31st December of the respective years.

¹¹ Refreshed age groups are based on recommendations on definition and classification of age from Department of Statistics.

¹² Educational level as declared by inmates upon admission.

¹³ Inmates are grouped according to their aggravated (i.e., most serious) offence.

¹⁴ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration offences, National Service-related offences and telecommunication & computer-related offences.

Convicted Penal Admissions¹⁵

Category		2020	2021	2022
Total Convicted Penal Admissions		6,219	5,858	5,965
Gender	Male	5,511	5,192	5,294
	Female	708	666	671
Admission Age Group¹⁶				
	19 & below	137	91	82
	20-29	1,544	1,419	1,420
	30-39	1,833	1,701	1,767
	40-49	1,238	1,154	1,228
	50-59	990	964	939
	60-64	287	289	302
	65 -69	144	156	155
	70-74	33	59	54
75 & Above	13	25	18	
Education Level¹⁷				
	No Education	106	84	55
	Primary	1,280	1,123	1,126
	Secondary	2,833	2,750	2,719
	Pre – U	392	370	527
	Vocational	908	806	736
	Tertiary and Above	700	725	802
Main Offence Group¹⁸				
	Crimes Against Person	1,160	1,105	1,152
	Property Crimes	910	840	846
	Commercial Crimes	565	538	639
	Drug Offences	964	805	703
	Immigration Offences	310	205	262
	Crime Against Public Order	564	531	588
	Customs Offences	366	358	389
	Traffic Offences	734	819	984
	Other Offences ¹⁹	646	657	402

¹⁵ Convicted penal admission figures refer to the number of persons admitted to prison to serve an imprisonment sentence in the respective calendar years.

¹⁶ Age as at admission. Refreshed age groups are based on recommendations on definition and classification of age from Department of Statistics.

¹⁷ Education level as declared by inmates upon admission.

¹⁸ Inmates are grouped according to their aggravated (i.e., most serious) offence.

¹⁹ Examples of “Other Offences” include National Registration offences, National Service-related offences and telecommunication & computer-related offences.

Remand Population²⁰

Category		2020	2021	2022
Total Remand Population		1,182	1,109	1,081
Gender	Male	1,092	1,021	1,006
	Female	90	88	75
Age Group²¹				
Age Group²¹	19 & below	32	24	25
	20-29	313	294	280
	30-39	337	300	308
	40-49	235	223	205
	50-59	180	181	178
	60-64	56	53	51
	65-69	23	25	23
	70-74	5	8	8
	75 & Above	1	1	3
Education Level²²				
Education Level²²	No Education	16	13	9
	Primary	234	249	206
	Secondary	614	561	574
	Pre - U	75	88	64
	Vocational	160	124	152
	Tertiary and Above	83	74	76
Main Offence Group²³				
Main Offence Group²³	Crimes Against Person	236	242	231
	Property Crimes	172	151	168
	Commercial Crimes	69	71	88
	Drug Offences	542	497	429
	Immigration Offences	8	6	9
	Crime Against Public Order	53	43	57
	Customs Offences	38	42	43
	Traffic Offences	19	23	28
	Other Offences ²⁴	45	34	28

²⁰ Remand population figures refer to the number of remand inmates who were in SPS's custody on 31st December of the respective years.

²¹ Refreshed age groups are based on recommendations on definition and classification of age from Department of Statistics

²² Educational level as declared by inmates upon admission.

²³ Inmates are grouped according to their aggravated (i.e., most serious) offence.

²⁴ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration offences, National Service-related offences and telecommunication & computer-related offences.

DRC Inmate Population²⁵

Category		2020	2021	2022
Total DRC Population		2,984	3,120	3,337
Gender	Male	2,513	2,666	2,908
	Female	471	454	429
Age Group²⁶				
	19 & below	98	59	38
	20-29	667	500	407
	30-39	668	642	692
	40-49	614	700	732
	50-59	601	752	876
	60-64	222	301	333
	65-69	88	126	189
	70-74	22	33	60
	75 & Above	4	7	10
Education Level²⁷				
	No Education	51	48	51
	Primary	787	939	1,018
	Secondary	1,405	1,432	1,573
	Pre – U	115	119	136
	Vocational	420	378	373
	Tertiary and Above	206	204	186

²⁵ The DRC regime is meant for local inmates only. The figures refer to the number of DRC inmates who were in SPS's custody on 31st December of the respective years.

²⁶ Refreshed age groups are based on recommendations on definition and classification of age from Department of Statistics.

²⁷ Educational level as declared by inmates upon admission.

DRC Inmate Admissions²⁸

Category		2020	2021	2022
Total DRC Admissions		1,905	1,714	1,995
Gender	Male	1,560	1,434	1,731
	Female	345	280	264
Admission Age Group²⁹	19 & below	118	62	41
	20-29	560	387	342
	30-39	432	393	475
	40-49	348	352	396
	50-59	285	333	443
	60-64	111	127	171
	65-69	41	45	93
	70-74	7	13	30
	75 & Above	3	2	4
Education Level³⁰	No Education	33	18	30
	Primary	433	448	536
	Secondary	893	794	921
	Pre - U	87	78	103
	Vocational	274	225	256
	Tertiary and Above	185	151	149

²⁸ The figures refer to the number of persons admitted to DRC in the respective calendar years.

²⁹ Age as at admission. Refreshed age groups are based on recommendations on definition and classification of age from Department of Statistics.

³⁰ Educational level as declared by inmates upon admission.

Criminal Law Detainee (CLD) Population³¹

Category		2020	2021	2022
Total CLD Population		98	88	80
Gender	Male	98	88	80
	Female	0	0	0
Age Group³²				
	19 & below	2	2	4
	20-29	56	49	41
	30-39	31	28	24
	40-49	8	8	10
	50-59	0	1	1
	60-64	0	0	0
	65-69	1	0	0
	70-74	0	0	0
	75 & Above	0	0	0
Education Level³³				
	No Education	0	0	0
	Primary	12	12	16
	Secondary	69	62	50
	Pre - U	5	5	3
	Vocational	10	8	10
	Tertiary and Above	2	1	1
Type of Criminal Activity				
	Secret Societies	95	86	78
	Unlicensed Moneylending	3	2	2
	Drug Trafficking	0	0	0
	Others	0	0	0

³¹ The CLD population refers to the number of persons detained under the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act and were in SPS's custody on 31st December of the respective years.

³² Refreshed age groups are based on recommendations on definition and classification of age from Department of Statistics.

³³ Educational level as declared by inmates upon admission.

Releases – Convicted Penal Releases

Category		2020	2021	2022
Total Convicted Penal		7,332	6,776	6,352
Gender	Male	6,493	6,008	5,644
	Female	839	768	708

Releases – DRC Releases

Category		2020	2021	2022
Total DRC Releases		1,212	1,534	1,787
Gender	Male	976	1,235	1,497
	Female	236	299	290

Number of Judicial Executions

Executions	2020	2021	2022
Murder	0	0	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Drug	0	0	11
Total	0	0	11

Major Incidents³⁴

Major Incidents	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022 (up to Dec 2022) ³⁵
Escape Rate Per 10,000 Inmate Population	0	0	0
Assault Rate Per 10,000 Inmate Population³⁶	46.9	48.0	37.2

³⁴ Major incidents are measured per fiscal year (FY) as published in the annual Budget Book.

³⁵ The actual figure as at the end of the fiscal year (FY) will be published in the 2023 statistics release.

³⁶ This covers assault cases perpetrated by inmates who are charged under aggravated prison offences. Such cases would include any attack by inmates on prison officers, or assaults by inmates on fellow inmates in which serious injuries are sustained by the victim(s).

Emplacement and Completion Rates for Community-Based Programmes (CBP)

Emplacement Number	2020	2021	2022
CBP for Penal Inmates	1,410	1,403	1,648
CBP for DRC Inmates	1,635	1,834	1,564

Completion Rates	2020	2021	2022
CBP for Penal inmates	95.2%	94.0%	94.4%
CBP for DRC inmates	90.1%	85.4%	73.6%

Sentencing Numbers and Completion Rates for Community-Based Sentences (CBS)

Day Reporting Order (DRO) ³⁷	2020	2021	2022
Number of Offenders Sentenced	41	30	14
Completion Rates	96.7%	94.4%	100%

Short Detention Order (SDO) ³⁸	2020	2021	2022
Number of Offenders Sentenced	31	14	26
Completion Rates	100%	100%	100%

Emplacement and Completion Rates for Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS)³⁹

Mandatory Aftercare Scheme	2020	2021	2022
Number of Inmates Emplaced	1,349	1,459	1,231
Completion Rates	94.0%	94.4%	97.2%

³⁷ A Day Reporting Order is a Community-Based Sentencing option whereby an offender reports to a day reporting centre for counselling and rehabilitation programmes, instead of serving a sentence in prison.

³⁸ A Short Detention Order is a Community-Based Sentencing option whereby an offender is detained in prison for a period not exceeding 14 days.

³⁹ Selected ex-offenders who are at higher risk of re-offending or who need more support in their reintegration will be placed on the Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS). The MAS is a structured aftercare regime that gradually reintegrates selected ex-offenders into society through progressive arrangements. It aims to support ex-offenders in staying crime- and drug-free and prevent them from re-offending.

Upskilling of Inmates

Skills Training⁴⁰			
Yearly Enrolment	2020	2021	2022
Average Number of Training Hours per Inmate Trained per Year⁴¹	54	60	64
Number of Inmates Trained⁴²	4,717	4,748	3,740

Work Programmes⁴³			
Engaged in Work Programmes	2020	2021	2022
Average Number of Inmates	2,902	2,615	2,308

Employment Assistance

Number of Employers Supporting Hiring Ex-offenders⁴⁴		
2020	2021	2022
5,895	5,634	6,265

Percentage of Inmates Referred to YRSG and Secured a Job Prior to Release⁴⁵		
2020	2021	2022
93%	94%	94%

⁴⁰ Skills Training Programmes are administered by YRSG to equip inmates with nationally accredited skills. The trainings offered are aligned to Singapore's Skills Framework, and consist of a mix of literacy skills, critical core skills, and technical skills and competencies.

⁴¹ Average number of training hours per inmates trained per year is calculated by taking the total number of training hours spent by inmates on training in a year divided by the total number of unique inmates trained in the same year.

⁴² Number of inmates trained refers to the number of unique inmates trained; an inmate may attend more than one training course.

⁴³ Work programmes aim to impact vocational and employability skills through on-the-job training. Discipline, positive work ethics and values are inculcated by immersing inmates in a real work environment within prisons.

⁴⁴ The drop in figures from 2020 to 2021 is due to a one-time data clean-up exercise to remove registered employers who are no longer in business.

⁴⁵ 2022 figure is as at end-December 2022. As YRSG is still assisting a small group of ex-offenders who were released in 2022 with employment assistance, the final figure for 2022 is subject to change.

Academic Programmes

Yearly Enrolment	2020	2021	2022
Other Courses ⁴⁶	46	70	40
GCE 'NA' Level	124	106	57
GCE 'NT' Level	116	92	64
GCE 'O' Level	82	80	73
GCE 'A' Level	45	57	37
NITEC (Business Services)	0	0	13
Diploma	28	29	16
Degree	8	4	3
Total	449	438	303

Academic Results

GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'NA' Pass)		
2020	2021	2022
100%	100%	97.7%
GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (19 points or less in ELMAB3 - English, Mathematics and Best 3)		
2020	2021	2022
66.2%	41.1%	46.5%
GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (5 'NA' Passes)		
2020	2021	2022
77.9%	53.6%	58.1%
GCE 'NT' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'NT' Pass)		
2020	2021	2022
100%	94.9%	100%
GCE 'NT' Level Results of Prison Candidates (3 'NT' Passes)		
2020	2021	2022
82.7%	61.5%	85.0%
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'O' Level Pass)		
2020	2021	2022
94.3%	96.6%	86.8%
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 3 'O' Level Passes)		
2020	2021	2022
79.2%	62.1%	57.9%
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (5 or more 'O' Level Passes)		
2020	2021	2022
40.4%	21.6%	16.7%

⁴⁶ Other courses include literacy and numeracy courses conducted by the Prison School.