

1 February 2012

**STRONGER COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SUPPORT HELP KEEP RECIDIVISM RATES LOW AS SPS
MAINTAINS FOCUS ON ITS ‘THROUGH-CARE’ PHILOSOPHY**

1. Singapore’s recidivism rate has gone down from 27.3% for the 2008 release cohort to 26.7% for the 2009 release cohort. Singapore’s current recidivism rate is considered low especially in comparison with other nations.

Table 1: Overall Recidivism Rate in Singapore

Release Cohort of 2007	Release Cohort of 2008	Release Cohort of 2009
26.5%	27.3%	26.7%

2. “Recidivism rates are influenced by many factors which will invariably lead to marginal fluctuations from year to year,” said Mr. Terrence Goh, Director, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Division, Singapore Prison Service. “It is more important to understand and consider these factors and take proactive steps to equip and help offenders break the offending cycle. While Prisons continues to maintain its commitment to ensuring the safe and secure custody of all inmates, it is also evolving its in-care efforts to better meet the rehabilitation needs of inmates. The aftercare component, which truly requires community-wide support, is equally crucial in providing offenders with the best chance of successful reintegration upon their release.”

More inmates secure employment prior to release

3. The number of inmates that secured employment even before they were released went up for the second year in a row, with 1,586 placed in a job before release. This represents a 35 per cent increase from the previous year and may be attributed to a rise in the number of employers registered with the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) (see table 3). On top of that, it was also reported that there was a growing number of inmates who underwent employability skills training last year (see table 4).

Table 2: Number of inmates securing jobs prior to release

Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
951	1,172	1,586

Table 3: Number of Employers Registered with SCORE

Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
2,118	2,459	2,872

Table 4: Employability Skills Training

	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
No of training places	8,537	13,472	14,754
No of offenders trained	3,567	4,261	5,094

Strong completion rates for Community Based Programmes

4. Inmates who were given opportunities to be employed on Community Based Programmes such as work release programmes, halfway house and home detention schemes continued to demonstrate their commitment to turn over a new leaf by completing these programmes.

Table 5: Emplacement and Completion Rates for Community Based Programmes

CBP Nos (Penal inmates)	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Inmates Emplaced	1,297	1,601	1,376
Completion Rates	96.0%	92.8%	93.4%

New community-based volunteer initiatives well-received

5. Two community-based volunteer projects which were piloted in late 2010 and formalised in 2011 received strong community support and have had positive impact on the rehabilitation and reintegration efforts of inmates and their loved ones. The Community Outreach Project, which is driven by SPS, Singapore After-Care Association (SACA) and the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA), has seen more than 200 families of inmates being offered support and guidance through the grassroots with 230 registered volunteers.

6. The Community Befriending Project has seen about 100 inmates and 80 volunteers exchanging letters of encouragement and support. The project pairs volunteers from Voluntary Welfare Organisations with inmates with little or no family support and encourages their correspondence through letter writing, eventually graduating to visits prior to their release.
7. “The reception which the two initiatives have received is very encouraging, as it indicates broad support from the community for ex-offenders who are genuinely trying to change, and their loved ones,” said Mr. Terrence Goh. “We invite individuals who are interested in helping offenders and their families along the challenging journey of successful reintegration to step forward and volunteer with Prisons and the aftercare agencies.”

– Ends –

Note to Editor:

Recidivism Rate: Defined as the percentage of local inmates who are released and subsequently detained or convicted and imprisoned again for a new offence within 2 years of their release.

About the Singapore Prison Service

The Singapore Prison Service (SPS) is an agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs. As a key member of the Home Team, SPS operates a secure and exemplary prison system. SPS protects society through the safe custody and rehabilitation of offenders, cooperating with its partners in aftercare and prevention. The SPS is committed to realising its Captains of Lives vision. Its team of uniformed officers and civilian staff work together to realise its vision of steering offenders towards becoming responsible citizens with the help of their family and the community.

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Annex A

Singapore Prison Service Annual Statistics 2011

The following statistics aim to provide our partners with pertinent information that can facilitate their understanding of our role in protecting society through the safe custody and rehabilitation of offenders. The type and depth of information to be published was decided based on feedback from our partners and the public.

Snapshot of Convicted Penal Inmate Population (as at 31 December of each year)

		Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Total Convicted Penal Population		11,288	11,154	10,028
Gender	Male	10,302	10,156	9,191
	Female	986	998	837
Age Grp				
Age Grp	Below 21	570	546	413
	21 - 30	2,390	2,206	1,825
	31 - 40	3,483	3,248	2,714
	41 - 50	3,203	3,279	3,071
	51 - 60	1,463	1,658	1,744
	Above 60	179	217	261
Edu Level¹				
Edu Level¹	No Edu	209	172	154
	Pri	4,540	4,442	4,032
	Sec	5,377	5,415	4,849
	Pre - U	178	173	123
	Vocational	697	670	612
	Tertiary & Above	287	282	258
Main Offence Grp²				
Main Offence Grp²	Crimes Against Person	604	503	569
	Property Crimes	1,969	1,745	1,685
	Commercial Crimes	674	598	694
	Drug Offences	6,016	6,230	6,061
	Immigration Offences	492	475	292
	Crime Against Public Order	303	243	215
	Customs Offences			282
	Crimes Under Women's Charter	14	32	
	Traffic Offences	86	57	48
	Other Offences ³	1,130	1,271	182

¹ As declared by inmates upon admission.

² Inmates are tracked based on index (most serious) offence only. The difference in some of the offence groups is due to an internal offence re-grouping exercise conducted in 2011 to classify individual offences into nine new main offence groups.

Admissions – Convicted Penal Admissions

		Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Total Convicted Penal Admissions		17,330	15,691	12,614
Gender	Male	13,955	12,658	10,348
	Female	3,375	3,033	2,266
Adm⁴ Age Grp	Below 21	998	960	736
	21 - 30	5,538	5,066	3,899
	31 - 40	5,256	4,465	3,481
	41 - 50	3,742	3,360	2,780
	51 - 60	1,528	1,549	1,391
	Above 60	268	291	327
Edu Level⁵	No Edu	550	402	351
	Pri	7,324	6,109	4,983
	Sec	7,734	7,437	5,815
	Pre - U	503	466	287
	Vocational	676	697	610
	Tertiary & Above	543	580	568
Main Offence Grp⁶	Crimes Against Person	829	678	751
	Property Crimes	2,373	2,237	2,408
	Commercial Crimes	1,081	1,012	1,322
	Drug Offences	2,235	1,878	1,742
	Immigration Offences	5,102	3,933	2,828
	Crime Against Public Order	235	250	725
	Customs Offences			768
	Crimes Under Women's Charter	89	130	
	Traffic Offences	965	932	892
	Other Offences ⁷	4,421	4,641	1,178

³ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences, Telecommunication & Computer related Offences..

⁴ Age as at admission

⁵ As declared by inmates upon admission.

⁶ Inmates are tracked based on index (most serious) offence only. The difference in some of the offence groups is due to an internal offence re-grouping exercise conducted in 2011 to classify individual offences into nine new main offence groups.

⁷ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences, Telecommunication & Computer related Offences..

Snapshot of remand population as at 31 December of each year

		Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Total Remand Population		812	933	1,247
Gender	Male	709	825	1,114
	Female	103	108	133
Age Grp				
Age Grp	Below 21	79	86	81
	21 - 30	228	267	292
	31 - 40	240	249	348
	41 - 50	173	208	314
	51 - 60	81	104	191
	Above 60	11	19	21
Edu Level⁸				
Edu Level⁸	No Edu	15	27	17
	Pri	321	319	469
	Sec	380	486	612
	Pre - U	16	23	26
	Vocational	47	49	77
	Tertiary & Above	33	29	46
Main Offence Grp⁹				
Main Offence Grp⁹	Crimes Against Person	91	106	130
	Property Crimes	157	157	177
	Commercial Crimes	58	47	87
	Drug Offences	310	369	714
	Immigration Offences	60	62	71
	Crime Against Public Order	27	27	27
	Customs Offences			12
	Crimes Under Women's Charter	9	12	
	Traffic Offences	6	9	4
	Other Offences ¹⁰	94	144	25

⁸ As declared by inmates upon admission.

⁹ Inmates are tracked based on index (most serious) offence only. The difference in some of the offence groups is due to an internal offence re-grouping exercise conducted in 2011 to classify individual offences into nine new main offence groups.

¹⁰ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences, Telecommunication & Computer related Offences.

Snapshot of DRC¹¹ inmate population as at 31 December of each year

		Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Total DRC Population		613	765	1,280
Gender	Male	501	622	1,056
	Female	112	143	224
Age Grp				
Age Grp	Below 21	44	65	134
	21 - 30	211	257	505
	31 - 40	181	213	288
	41 - 50	116	155	201
	51 - 60	57	68	130
	Above 60	4	7	22
Edu Level¹²				
Edu Level¹²	No Edu	16	11	13
	Pri	190	210	350
	Sec	316	442	743
	Pre - U	20	10	12
	Vocational	56	63	113
	Tertiary & Above	15	29	49

DRC inmate admissions

		Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Total DRC Admissions		535	688	1,231
Gender	Male	435	554	1,006
	Female	100	134	225
Adm Age Grp¹³				
Adm Age Grp¹³	Below 21	55	69	150
	21 - 30	197	238	510
	31 - 40	151	184	253
	41 - 50	89	142	188
	51 - 60	41	48	114
	Above 60	2	7	16
Edu Level¹⁴				
Edu Level¹⁴	No Edu	13	10	12
	Pri	154	179	322
	Sec	281	404	720
	Pre - U	23	9	10
	Vocational	50	58	116
	Tertiary & Above	14	28	51

¹¹ DRC Regime is meant for local inmates only.

¹² & ¹⁴ As declared by inmates upon admission.

¹³ Age as at admission

Releases – Convicted Penal Releases

		Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Total Convicted		16,601	15,867	13,726
Gender	Male	13,272	12,828	11,295
	Female	3,329	3,039	2,431

Releases – DRC Releases

		Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Total DRC Releases		468	512	705
Gender	Male	373	409	564
	Female	95	103	141

Number of Capital Executions

Executions	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Murder	1	0	2
Firearms	1	0	0
Drug	3	0	2
Total	5	0	4

Major Incidents

Major Incidents	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011(Till 31 st Dec 2011)
Escape Rate per 10,000	0	0	0
Assault Rate¹⁵ per 10,000	22.0	29.4	17.4

Recidivism Rates¹⁶

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2007	Release Cohort 2008	Release Cohort 2009
Overall	26.5%	27.3%	26.7%
Penal	26.7%	27.1%	26.7%
DRC	20.4%	30.5%	27.1%

¹⁵ The assault rate refers to assault cases perpetrated by inmates who are charged under aggravated prison offences. Such cases would include any attack by inmates on prisons officers, or assaults by inmates on fellow inmates in which serious injuries are sustained by the victim(s).

¹⁶ Recidivism Rate is defined as the percentage of local inmates detained, convicted and imprisoned again for a new offence within two years from their release.

Academic Programmes

Yearly Enrolment	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Other Courses ¹⁷	338	762	457
N Level	59	101	72
O Level	108	75	110
A Level	25	20	11
Total	530	958	650

Academic Results			
GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 1 'N' Pass)			
	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Prisons Candidates	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (10 points or less in best 3 subjects)			
	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Prisons Candidates	73.0%	80.2%	94.2%
GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (19 points or less in ELMAB3)			
	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Prisons Candidates	73.7%	63.3%	93.6%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 1 'O' Pass)			
	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Prisons Candidates	98.7%	100.0%	96.7%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 3 'O' Passes)			
	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Prisons Candidates	87.7%	77.4%	83.0%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (5 or more 'O' Passes)			
	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Prisons Candidates	60.3%	41.7%	56.1%

¹⁷ Other courses include short term course like English literacy classes, and basic education programmes (primary to secondary level).

Vocational Programmes

Employability Skills Training Programmes¹⁸			
Yearly Enrolment	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
No. of training places	8,537	13,472	14,754
No. of inmates trained	3,567	4,261	5,094

Work Programmes¹⁹			
Engaged in Work	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
Avg no. of Inmates	4,199	4,371	4,273

Emplacement and Completion Rates for Community Based Programmes²⁰ (CBP)

Emplacement	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
CBP for Penal inmates	1,297	1,601	1,376
CBP for DRC inmates	266	324	431

Completion Rates	Y2009	Y2010	Y2011
CBP for Penal inmates	96.0%	92.8%	93.4%
CBP for DRC inmates	87.9%	80.5%	75.9%

¹⁸ Employability Skills Training Programmes are provided by Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) to equip inmates with relevant job skills. Examples of programmes include National Institute of Technical Education Certification (NITEC), Institute of Technical Education Skill Certificate (ISC), National Skills Recognition System (NSRS) courses and on-the-job training programmes.

¹⁹ Work programmes aim to impart vocational and employability skills through on-the-job training. Discipline, and positive work ethics and values are inculcated by immersing inmates in real work environment within prisons.

²⁰ Community based programmes provide an opportunity for suitable inmates to have a gradual transition from incarceration to complete freedom. These programmes allow inmates to work outside prison while residing in their home, a halfway house, or a work release camp, under supervised conditions.