![Singapore Prison Service logo] SINGAPORE PRISON SERVICE
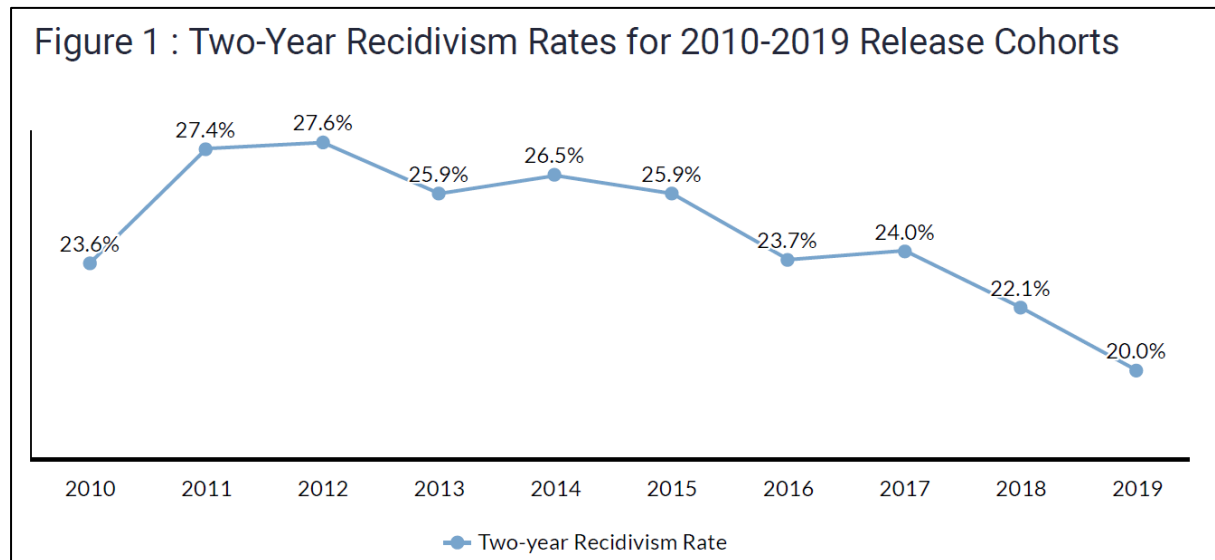
NEWS RELEASE

SPS Annual Statistics Release for 2021

In 2021, the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) continued to ensure the safe and secure custody of inmates. Working closely with Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG), community partners and volunteers, SPS made further progress in the rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-offenders.

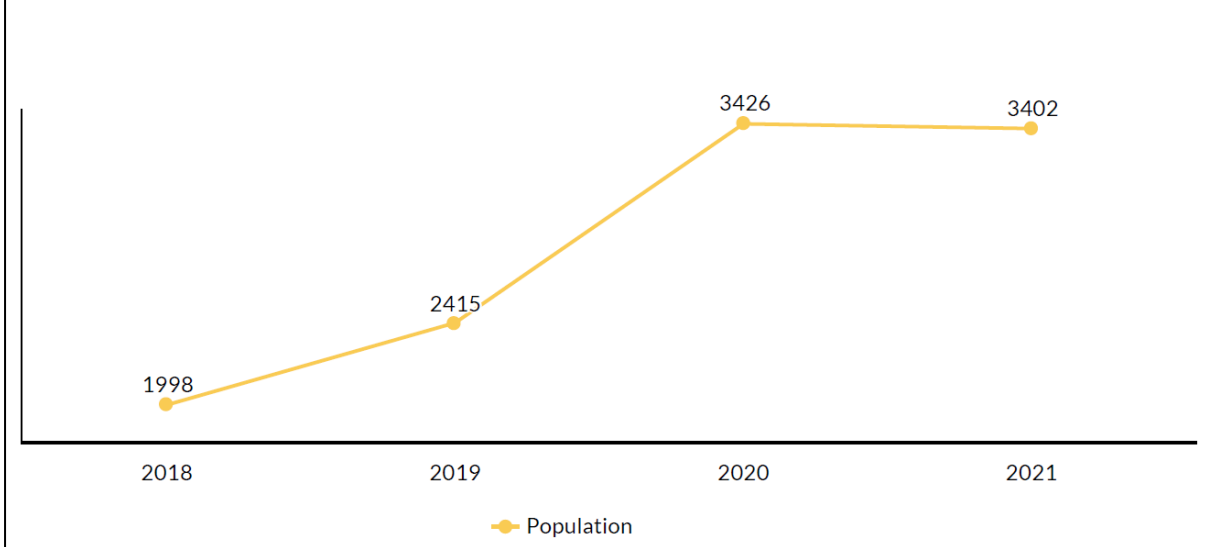**Two-Year Recidivism Rate Reached a 30-year Low**

2.   The two-year recidivism rate has remained low and stable, with the recidivism rate for the 2019 release cohort being the lowest (see Figure 1) in the last 30 years.[1]

Figure 1 : Two-Year Recidivism Rates for 2010-2019 Release Cohorts

Year	Two-year Recidivism Rate
2010	23.6%
2011	27.4%
2012	27.6%
2013	25.9%
2014	26.5%
2015	25.9%
2016	23.7%
2017	24.0%
2018	22.1%
2019	20.0%

3.   To keep recidivism rates low, SPS will continue to develop and deliver evidence-informed rehabilitation programmes, and enhance community corrections by providing eligible and suitable offenders who are serving the tail-end of their sentences in the community, with structured support to help them better reintegrate into society. Such support includes providing them with opportunities to enhance their employability and stay employed, and supporting them in rekindling family bonds, and building pro-social networks. In 2021, the community corrections population totalled 3,402, similar to the level in 2020 (see Figure 2).

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[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 2: Population on Community Corrections from 2018 to 2021

Employment Support for Inmates and Ex-offenders

4.   Gainful employment facilitates rehabilitation and reintegration by providing ex-offenders with income and financial stability. YRSG adopts a comprehensive approach in this, by preparing inmates and ex-offenders for employment through placement services, and also supporting them in retaining their job. In 2021, YRSG provided employment assistance to about 3,000 inmates. Despite the subdued economic conditions, 94% of these 3,000 inmates assisted secured jobs before their release. These jobs were largely in administrative and support services, food services, and wholesale and retail trade industries.
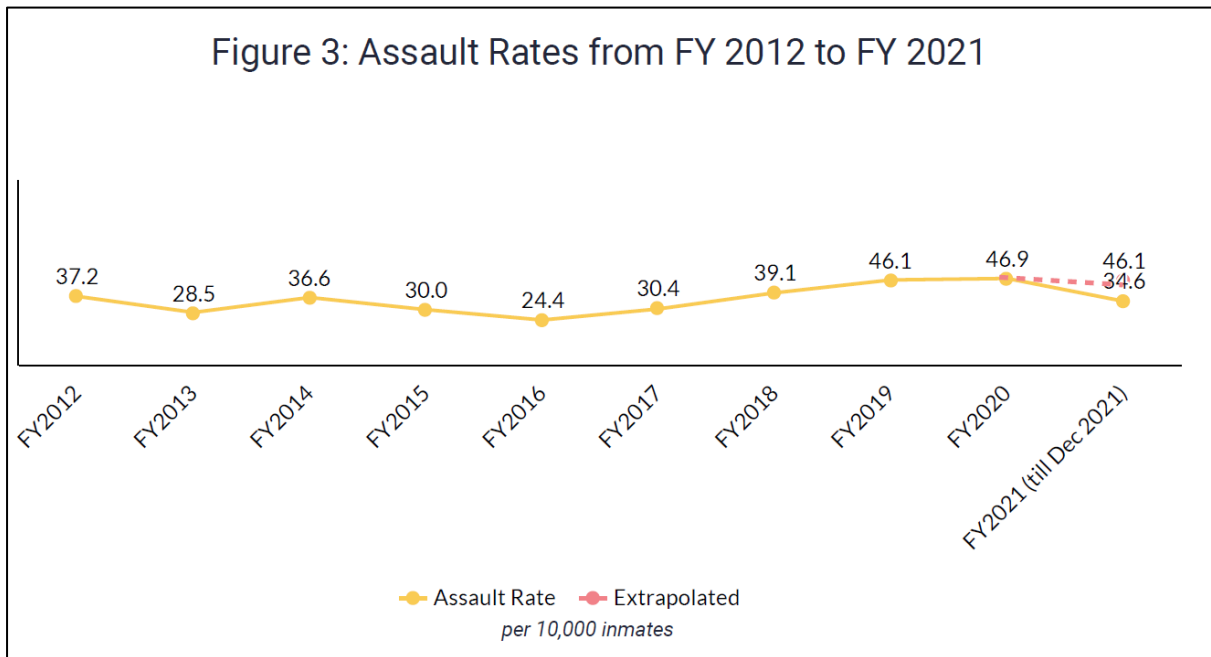
Prisons Remained Safe and Secure

5.   Respect for authority and compliance with prison regulations are essential for good order and discipline in our prisons, which in turn creates a safe environment for inmates, staff and volunteers.

6.   Assault rates have stabilised at around 46 per 10,000 inmates (see Figure 3) since FY2019.[2] Compared with other correctional agencies, SPS's rate of assault is low. Assaults and fights between inmates happen mainly due to inter-personal differences between inmates, and their struggles to manage their anger and negative emotions. Some incidents involve inmates assaulting the staff when the inmates are corrected or stopped by staff for not complying with prison rules and regulations.

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[2] Assault rate covers assault cases perpetrated by inmates who are charged under aggravated prison offences. Such cases would typically include any attack by inmates on prison officers, or assaults by inmates on fellow inmates, during which serious injuries are sustained by the victim(s).

Figure 3: Assault Rates from FY 2012 to FY 2021

7.   SPS has taken preventive steps to reduce incidences of violence in our prisons:

    a.   *Restorative Practices (RP)*
    RP emphasises intentionally improving relationships and repairing harm in the event of incidents, such as when there are disputes or acts of violence (e.g. fights or assaults). With this approach, when wrong is done, inmates are called to take responsibility for their behaviour and are punished. At the same time, they are encouraged to learn from the incident and take action to repair the harm. Through restorative approaches, inmates are given a voice to express themselves, become aware of how their behaviour has affected others, and acknowledge others' feelings and needs. Inmates also share how they intend to take responsibility for their actions in a fair process with the involved parties and prison staff (e.g. apologising to fellow inmates or to staff for the harm done). Correctional Rehabilitation Specialists work hand in hand with Prison Officers to improve inmate engagement and adopt RP.

    b.   *Gang Disassociation in Prisons*
    Based on SPS's records, about 24% of inmates enter prison with gang affiliations.[3] SPS promotes gang disassociation. The Gang Renunciation Programme was launched in 2009 to provide a platform for motivated inmates to renounce their affiliation to gangs, and provide them with support and coping skills for a gang-free lifestyle. Inmates who take part in the Gang Renunciation Programme also have access to a free tattoo removal programme, which helps them further disassociate themselves from their gang. Ex-offenders who renounce their gang affiliation continue to be supported upon their release through community partners, such as the Industrial & Services Co-Operative Society Ltd which runs a support group for ex-offenders who

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[3] Based on the 2021 admission cohort.

have renounced their gang affiliation. To date, 1,463 inmates have taken part in the Gang Renunciation Programme.

8.   SPS has been investing in technology and training of our officers to strengthen our operational capability to respond to incidents of violence amongst inmates. SPS also has its Singapore Prisons Emergency Action Response Force (SPEAR), which is activated to support operational staff where necessary, in managing more serious or violent offenders or larger incidents. [4] SPS also leverages technology, such as using abnormal behaviour detection systems, to complement physical monitoring by Prison Officers, which allows for abnormal incidents such as fights and medical emergencies to be detected and responded to faster.[5]

Conclusion

9.   SPS will continue to explore means to further improve the safe and secure custody, as well the rehabilitation of inmates.

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[4] The SPEAR force is the elite, tactical response force of the Singapore Prison Service, trained to respond immediately to contain emergency security breaches and mitigate and resolve unrest in prisons.
[5] Abnormal behaviour detection systems utilise a combination of video analytics and CCTV footage to detect irregular inmate behaviour.

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.

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.

About Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG)

YRSG is a statutory board under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It was established on 1 April 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 the national workforce, which includes 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 to help them.

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

Singapore Prison Service Annual Statistics for 2021

Total Offender Population in Prisons and in the Community[6]

Offender Population	2019	2020	2021
Incare	10,570	9,242	8,160
Community Corrections	2,415	3,426	3,402
Total	12,985	12,668	11,562

Recidivism Rates[7]

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2017	Release Cohort 2018	Release Cohort 2019
Overall	24.0%	22.1%	20.0%
Penal[8]	23.1%	21.4%	19.1%
Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC)[9]	28.1%	25.9%	24.5%

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[6] The figures are correct as at 31st December of the respective years.

[7] 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.

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

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

SINGAPORE PRISON SERVICE

Convicted Penal Inmate Population[10]

Category		2019	2020	2021
Total Convicted Penal Population		**8,078**	**6,934**	**5,945**
Gender	Male	7,259	6,249	5,374
	Female	819	685	571
Age Group[11]	19 & below	156	164	138
	20-29	1266	1,167	1,015
	30-39	1770	1,488	1,343
	40-49	1991	1,655	1,298
	50-59	1957	1,608	1,364
	60-64	624	557	478
	65-69	236	213	223
	70-74	61	71	65
	75 & Above	17	11	21
Education Level[12]	No Education	128	102	92
	Primary	2,564	2,051	1,656
	Secondary	3,942	3,426	2,938
	Pre – U	292	257	251
	Vocational	774	732	650
	Tertiary and Above	378	366	358
Main Offence Group[13]	Crimes Against Person	701	692	702
	Property Crimes	862	712	639
	Commercial Crimes	448	370	343
	Drug Offences	5,420	4,646	3,682
	Immigration Offences	59	23	24
	Crime Against Public Order	145	138	171
	Customs Offences	271	186	160
	Traffic Offences	39	52	88
	Other Offences[14]	133	115	136

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[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] 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.

SINGAPORE PRISON SERVICE

Convicted Penal Admissions[15]

Category		2019	2020	2021
Total Convicted Penal Admissions		**8,574**	**6,219**	5,858
Gender	Male	7,548	5,511	5,192
	Female	1,026	708	666
Admission Age Group[16]	19 & below	183	137	91
	20-29	2,218	1,544	1,419
	30-39	2,510	1,833	1,701
	40-49	1,766	1,238	1,154
	50-59	1,314	990	964
	60-64	345	287	289
	65 -69	172	144	156
	70-74	50	33	59
	75 & Above	16	13	25
Education Level[17]	No Education	175	106	84
	Primary	1,754	1,280	1,123
	Secondary	4,085	2,833	2,750
	Pre – U	636	392	370
	Vocational	1,137	908	806
	Tertiary and Above	787	700	725
Main Offence Group[18]	Crimes Against Person	1,303	1,160	1,105
	Property Crimes	1,386	910	840
	Commercial Crimes	762	565	538
	Drug Offences	1,416	964	805
	Immigration Offences	698	310	205
	Crime Against Public Order	742	564	531
	Customs Offences	528	366	358
	Traffic Offences	962	734	819
	Other Offences[19]	777	646	657

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[15] Convicted penal admission figures refers to the number of persons admitted to serve a prison 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] 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.

SINGAPORE PRISON SERVICE

Remand Population[20]

Category		2019	2020	2021
Total Remand Population		**1,135**	**1,182**	**1,109**
Gender	Male	1,044	1,092	1,021
	Female	91	90	88
Age Group[21]	19 & below	26	32	24
	20-29	299	313	294
	30-39	333	337	300
	40-49	235	235	223
	50-59	182	180	181
	60-64	41	56	53
	65-69	16	23	25
	70-74	1	5	8
	75 & Above	2	1	1
Education Level[22]	No Education	24	16	13
	Primary	258	234	249
	Secondary	572	614	561
	Pre - U	70	75	88
	Vocational	137	160	124
	Tertiary and Above	74	83	74
Main Offence Group[23]	Crimes Against Person	205	236	242
	Property Crimes	209	172	151
	Commercial Crimes	98	69	71
	Drug Offences	489	542	497
	Immigration Offences	10	8	6
	Crime Against Public Order	44	53	43
	Customs Offences	28	38	42
	Traffic Offences	14	19	23
	Other Offences[24]	38	45	34

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[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] 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 Population[25]

Category		2019	2020	2021
Total DRC Population		**2,309**	**2,984**	**3,120**
Gender	Male	1,938	2,513	2,666
	Female	371	471	454
Age Group[26]	19 & below	91	98	59
	20-29	565	667	500
	30-39	617	668	642
	40-49	429	614	700
	50-59	421	601	752
	60-64	119	222	301
	65-69	49	88	126
	70-74	16	22	33
	75 & Above	2	4	7
Education Level[27]	No Education	31	51	48
	Primary	552	787	939
	Secondary	1,127	1,405	1,432
	Pre – U	110	115	119
	Vocational	351	420	378
	Tertiary and Above	138	206	204

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[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] As declared by inmates upon admission.

DRC Inmate Admissions[28]

Category		2019	2020	2021
Total DRC Admissions		**2,080**	**1,905**	1,714
Gender	Male	1,745	1,560	1,434
	Female	335	345	280
Admission Age Group[29]	19 & below	99	118	62
	20-29	527	560	387
	30-39	537	432	393
	40-49	375	348	352
	50-59	398	285	333
	60-64	92	111	127
	65-69	40	41	45
	70-74	10	7	13
	75 & Above	2	3	2
Education Level[30]	No Education	27	33	18
	Primary	499	433	448
	Secondary	1,008	893	794
	Pre - U	97	87	78
	Vocational	324	274	225
	Tertiary and Above	125	185	151

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[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] As declared by inmates upon admission.

Criminal Law Detainee (CLD) Population[31]

Category		2019	2020	2021
Total CLD Population		**97**	**98**	**88**
Gender	Male	97	98	88
	Female	0	0	0
Age Group[32]	19 & below	3	2	2
	20-29	55	56	49
	30-39	27	31	28
	40-49	10	8	8
	50-59	1	0	1
	60-64	1	0	0
	65-69	0	1	0
	70-74	0	0	0
	75 & Above	0	0	0
Education Level[33]	No Education	2	0	0
	Primary	10	12	12
	Secondary	70	69	62
	Pre - U	3	5	5
	Vocational	10	10	8
	Tertiary and Above	2	2	1
Type of Criminal Activity	Secret Societies	88	95	86
	Unlicensed Moneylending	9	3	2
	Drug Trafficking	0	0	0
	Others	0	0	0

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[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] As declared by inmates upon admission.

Releases – Convicted Penal Releases

Category		2019	2020	2021
Total Convicted Penal		**9,149**	**7,332**	**6,776**
Gender	Male	8,058	6,493	6,008
	Female	1,091	839	768

Releases – DRC Releases

Category		2019	2020	2021
Total DRC Releases		**1,231**	**1,212**	**1,534**
Gender	**Male**	980	976	1,235
	Female	251	236	299

Number of Judicial Executions

Executions	2019	2020	2021
Murder	2	0	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Drug	2	0	0
Total	4	0	0

Major Incidents[34]

Major Incidents	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021 (up to Dec 2021)[35]
Escape Rate Per 10,000 Inmate Population	0	0	0
Assault Rate Per 10,000 Inmate Population[36]	46.1	46.9	34.6

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[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 2022 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	2019	2020	2021
CBP for Penal Inmates	1,420	1,410	1,403
CBP for DRC Inmates	1,140	1,635	1,834

Completion Rates	2019	2020	2021
CBP for Penal inmates	95.7%	95.2%	94.0%
CBP for DRC inmates	87.6%	90.1%	85.4%

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

Day Reporting Order (DRO)[37]	2019	2020	2021
Number of Offenders Sentenced	31	41	30
Completion Rates	90.5%	96.7%	94.4%

Short Detention Order (SDO)[38]	2019	2020	2021
Number of Offenders Sentenced	22	31	14
Completion Rates	100%	100%	100%

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

Mandatory Aftercare Scheme	2019	2020	2021
Number of Inmates Emplaced	1,139	1,349	1,459
Completion Rates	91.4%	94.0%	94.4%

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[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-free and prevent them from re-offending.

Vocational Programmes

Skills Training[40]			
Yearly Enrolment	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
Number of Training Places	26,972	15,141	15,680
Number of Inmates Trained[41]	5,923	4,717	4,748

Work Programmes[42]			
Engaged in Work Programmes	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
Average Number of Inmates	3,104	2,902	2,615

Employment Assistance

Number of Employers Registered with YRSG[43]		
2019	**2020**	**2021**
5,603	5,895	5,634

Percentage of Inmates Referred to YRSG and Secured a Job[44]		
2019	**2020**	**2021**
96%	93%	94%

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

[42] 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.

[43] 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.

[44] 2021 figure is accurate as of end December 2021. As YRSG is still assisting a small group of ex-offenders who were released in 2021 with employment assistance, the final figure for 2021 is subject to change.

Academic Programmes

Yearly Enrolment	2019	2020	2021
Other Courses[45]	94	46	70
'NA' Level	111	124	106
'NT' Level	142	116	92
'O' Level	87	82	80
'A' Level	49	45	57
Diploma	53	28	29
Degree	-	8	4
Total	536	449	438

Academic Results

GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'NA' Pass)		
2019	2020	2021
100%	100%	100%
GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (19 points or less in ELMAB3 - English, Mathematics and Best 3)		
2019	2020	2021
66.2%	66.2%	41.1%
GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (5 'NA' Passes)		
2019	2020	2021
74.3%	77.9%	53.6%
GCE 'NT' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'NT' Pass)		
2019	2020	2021
100%	100%	94.9%
GCE 'NT' Level Results of Prison Candidates (3 'NT' Passes)		
2019	2020	2021
86.8%	82.7%	61.5%
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'O' Level Pass)		
2019	2020	2021
98.3%	94.3%	96.6%
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 3 'O' Level Passes)		
2019	2020	2021
84.5%	79.2%	62.1%
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (5 or more 'O' Level Passes)		
2019	2020	2021
52.8%	40.4%	21.6%

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[45] Other courses include literacy and numeracy courses conducted by the Prison School.