

News Release

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS INTEGRAL TO REDUCING RE-OFFENDING

The Singapore Prison Service (SPS) today released key statistical data that re-affirmed our commitment to work closely with the community to support the rehabilitation of inmates and reduce their risks of re-offending.

Recidivism Rate Remains Low and Stable

2. The overall recidivism rate¹ for the 2013 release cohort remains low and stable (See Table 1).

Table 1: Overall Recidivism Rate

2011 Release Cohort	2012 Release Cohort	2013 Release Cohort
27.4%	27.6%	25.9%

3. The stable recidivism rates can be attributed to SPS working closely with the community to support its comprehensive throughcare approach towards inmate rehabilitation and reintegration to reduce their risks of re-offending upon release. During the incare phase, SPS delivers programmes that are tailored to the risk profiles of inmates, to address their criminogenic risks and rehabilitation needs. In addition, SPS has enhanced its aftercare programmes, working closely with SCORE and community partners such as SANA and SACA, to help ex-offenders reintegrate back to society.

Importance of Structured Community-Based Reintegration

4. SPS will be increasing its use of community-based rehabilitation and reintegration programmes to help inmates break the cycle of re-offending. Suitable inmates are placed on Community-Based Programmes (CBP) at the tail-end of their sentences. Inmates assessed to have a lower risk of re-offending and have strong family support may be placed on the Home Detention Scheme, while those who require a more structured environment may be placed in a VWO-run Halfway House or placed on Work Release Schemes. Ex-offenders assessed to have a greater risk of re-offending or require more aftercare support will be placed on the Mandatory Aftercare Scheme upon their release. Through supervision, counseling and case management, these community-based schemes complement the rehabilitation programmes conducted in prison.

¹ 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.

“Our emphasis on community rehabilitation and reintegration underscores SPS’ firm commitment to the effective rehabilitation of inmates which, in turn, contributes to a safer and more secure Singapore. Together with our community partners, we strive to provide evidence-based programmes that reduce inmates’ risks of re-offending and support their reintegration into society.”

- Mr Rockey Francisco Junior, Director, Community Correction and Command, Singapore Prison Service.

Increase in Employer Support

5. Gainful employment plays an important part in the effective reintegration of ex-offenders. In 2015, SCORE actively engaged employers in the food & beverage, hospitality, logistics and manufacturing sectors to garner support for the employment of ex-offenders. The number of employers registered with SCORE increased 7%, from 4,433 to 4,745. In addition, 2,042 inmates secured a job prior to their release in 2015, a 9.5% increase from the 1,865 in 2014 (See Tables 2 and 3). This reflects society’s increased acceptance and support for ex-offenders’ rehabilitation and reintegration.

Table 2: Number of Employers Registered with SCORE

Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
3,876	4,433	4,745

Table 3: Number of Inmates Securing a Job Prior to Release

Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
2,114	1,865	2,042

“The successful rehabilitation of ex-offenders is a whole-of-community effort. Together with the inmate’s resolve to change, greater collaboration between aftercare agencies, and the support of the community and family, we can build a safer society free of re-offending.”

- Mr Abdul Karim, Executive Director, Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association.

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About 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 inmates, 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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Singapore Prison Service Annual Statistics 2015

Convicted² Penal Inmate Population as at 31 December of each year

Category		Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
Total Convicted Penal Population		10,042	9,754	9,602
Gender	Male	9,170	8,886	8,783
	Female	872	868	819
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	309	261	247
	21 – 30	1,590	1,511	1,459
	31 – 40	2,367	2,156	2,071
	41 – 50	3,247	3,121	2,995
	51 – 60	2,170	2,287	2,320
	Above 60	359	418	510
Education Level³				
Education Level³	No Education	142	155	157
	Primary	3,922	3,811	3,652
	Secondary	4,847	4,686	4,665
	Pre - U	146	146	158
	Vocational	651	644	657
	Tertiary & Above	334	312	313
Main Offence Group⁴				
Main Offence Group⁴	Crimes Against Persons	603	575	560
	Property Crimes	1,349	1,238	1,136
	Commercial Crimes	704	537	488
	Drug Offences	6,510	6,527	6,675
	Immigration Offences	225	184	134
	Crimes Against Public	175	174	129
	Customs Offences	166	171	88
	Traffic Offences	66	69	73
	Other Offences ⁵	244	279	319

² Convicted penal inmate population provides the number of inmates who have already been charged and are within the inmate population as at the end of the respective year.

³ As declared by inmates upon admission.

⁴ Inmates are tracked based on index (most serious) offence only.

⁵ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences, Telecommunication & Computer related Offences.

Convicted Penal Admissions⁶ as at 31 December of each year

Category		Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
Total Convicted Penal Admissions		12,774	11,595	10,635
Gender	Male	10,588	9,631	9,084
	Female	2,186	1,964	1,551
Admission⁷ Age Group				
Admission⁷ Age Group	Below 21	560	446	478
	21 - 30	3,814	3,553	3,324
	31 - 40	3,408	3,035	2,782
	41 - 50	3,062	2,685	2,345
	51 - 60	1,607	1,532	1,328
	Above 60	323	344	378
Education Level⁸				
Education Level⁸	No Education	270	239	171
	Primary	4,699	4,152	3,347
	Secondary	5,979	5,388	5,233
	Pre - U	318	233	237
	Vocational	718	771	852
	Tertiary & Above	790	812	795
Main Offence Group⁹				
Main Offence Group⁹	Crimes Against Persons	1,021	1,004	1,043
	Property Crimes	2,158	2,044	1,773
	Commercial Crimes	1,540	1,306	923
	Drug Offences	2,160	1,899	2,097
	Immigration Offences	2,704	2,023	1,408
	Crimes Against Public	555	635	608
	Customs Offences	647	612	305
	Traffic Offences	966	905	921
	Other Offences ¹⁰	1,023	1,167	1,557

⁶ Convicted Penal Admission figures show the number of inmate admissions for the calendar year.

⁷ Age as at admission.

⁸ As declared by inmates upon admission.

⁹ Inmates are tracked based on index (most serious) offence only.

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

Remand¹¹ population as at 31 December of each year

Category		Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
Total Remand Population		1,236	1,306	1,255
Gender	Male	1,108	1,183	1,133
	Female	128	123	122
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	68	62	65
	21 - 30	344	355	371
	31 - 40	320	333	320
	41 - 50	308	360	307
	51 - 60	172	157	157
	Above 60	24	39	35
Education Level¹²				
Education Level¹²	No Education	19	33	21
	Primary	395	422	401
	Secondary	653	661	627
	Pre - U	23	19	32
	Vocational	81	98	99
	Tertiary & Above	65	73	75
Main Offence Group¹³				
Main Offence Group¹³	Crimes Against Persons	121	124	94
	Property Crimes	217	207	204
	Commercial Crimes	74	81	67
	Drug Offences	633	707	683
	Immigration Offences	56	36	39
	Crimes Against Public	71	48	64
	Customs Offences	14	12	9
	Traffic Offences	4	7	7
	Other Offences ¹⁴	46	84	88

¹¹ Remand population figures provides the number of remand inmates who are within the prison population as at the end of the respective year.

¹² As declared by inmates upon admission.

¹³ Inmates are tracked based on index (most serious) offence only.

¹⁴ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences, Telecommunication & Computer related Offences.

Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) inmate population¹⁵ as at 31 December of each year

Category		Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
Total DRC Population		1,617	1,400	1,419
Gender	Male	1,328	1,146	1,121
	Female	289	254	298
Age Group	Below 21	91	79	76
	21 - 30	631	577	633
	31 - 40	443	370	344
	41 - 50	224	195	206
	51 - 60	200	160	132
	Above 60	28	19	28
Education Level¹⁶	No Education	15	11	6
	Primary	370	324	308
	Secondary	940	787	821
	Pre - U	33	24	22
	Vocational	184	179	178
	Tertiary & Above	75	75	84

DRC inmate admissions¹⁷ as at 31 December of each year

Category		Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
Total DRC Admissions		1,364	1,139	1,213
Gender	Male	1,107	919	942
	Female	257	220	271
Admission Age Group¹⁸	Below 21	101	88	87
	21 - 30	571	505	569
	31 - 40	349	288	288
	41 - 50	178	150	162
	51 - 60	144	94	90
	Above 60	21	14	17
Education Level¹⁹	No Education	12	11	4
	Primary	287	253	247
	Secondary	800	639	712
	Pre - U	29	19	23
	Vocational	161	151	148
	Tertiary & Above	75	66	79

¹⁵ DRC Regime is meant for local inmates only. The figures provide the number of DRC inmates who are within the inmate population as at the end of the respective year.

¹⁶ As declared by inmates upon admission.

¹⁷ The number of DRC inmate admissions show the number of DRC inmates admissions for the calendar year.

¹⁸ Age as at admission.

¹⁹ As declared by inmates upon admission.

Criminal Law Detainee (CLD)²⁰ Population as at 31 December of each year

Category		Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
Total CLD Population		200	136	118
Gender	Male	196	134	117
	Female	4	2	1
Age Group	Below 21	3	7	5
	21 - 30	73	57	55
	31 - 40	64	43	38
	41 - 50	47	22	15
	51 - 60	9	6	4
	Above 60	4	1	1
Education Level²¹	No Education	9	5	4
	Primary	46	27	22
	Secondary	126	93	82
	Pre - U	3	1	2
	Vocational	12	9	7
	Tertiary & Above	4	1	1
Type of Criminal Activity	Secret Societies	125	99	89
	Unlicensed Money-	52	22	16
	Drug Trafficking	18	10	8
	Others	5	5	5

Releases – Convicted Penal Releases

Category		Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
Total Convicted Penal Releases		12,687	11,955	10,807
Gender	Male	10,541	9,981	9,206
	Female	2,146	1,974	1,601

Releases – DRC Releases

Category		Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
Total DRC Releases		1,257	1,350	1,172
Gender	Male	1,009	1,098	942
	Female	248	252	230

²⁰ CLD population provides the number of persons detained under the Criminal Law (Temporary Provision) Act and is within the population as at the end of the respective year.

²¹ As declared by inmates upon admission.

Number of Capital Executions as at 31 December of each year

Executions	Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
Murder	0	0	1
Firearms	0	0	0
Drug	0	2	3
Total	0	2	4

Major Incidents

Major Incidents ²²	FY2013	FY2014	FY 2015 (Till 31 st Dec 2015)
Escape Rate per 10,000	0	0	0
Assault Rate ²³ per 10,000	28.5	36.6	22.4

Recidivism Rates²⁴

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2011	Release Cohort 2012	Release Cohort 2013
Overall	27.4%	27.6%	25.9%
Penal	27.0%	27.5%	24.7%
DRC	31.1%	28.3%	31.9%

Emplacement Number for Community Based Programmes (CBP) as at 31 December of each year

Emplacement Number	Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
CBP for Penal inmates	977	1,011	886
CBP for DRC inmates	809	885	1,003

²² Major incidents are measured per FY as published in the annual Budget Book.

²³ 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 prison officers, or assaults by inmates on fellow inmates in which serious injuries are sustained by the victim(s).

²⁴ 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.

Completion Rates for Community Based Programmes (CBP) as at 31 December of each year

Completion Rates ²⁵	Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
CBP for Penal inmates	95.4%	96.7%	96.9% 96.0%
CBP for DRC inmates	85.9%	88.2%	81.7% 87.1%

Vocational Programmes as at 31 December of each year

Employability Skills Training ²⁶			
Yearly Enrolment	Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
No. of training places	22,504	21,093	26,660
No. of inmates trained ²⁷	5,896	5,482	5,137

Work Programmes ²⁸			
Engaged in Work	Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
Average No. of Inmates	4,200	4,245	4,065

Academic Programmes as at 31 December of each year

Yearly Enrolment	Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
Other Courses ²⁹	1,784	1,126	704
N Level	108	98	101
O Level	76	91	108
A Level	27	23	30
Total	1,995	1,338	943

²⁵ The completion rates for penal and DRC inmates as at 31 December 2015 have been amended to 96.0% and 87.1%, respectively. The variances of between 0.9 and 5.4 percentage points were due to data transference errors.

²⁶ Employability Skills Training Programmes are provided by Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) to equip inmates with relevant job skills. SCORE's training system is aligned to Singapore Workforce Development Agency's (WDA) Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) framework. Examples of training offered include Workplace Literacy and Numeracy (WPLN), Employability Skills, Certified Service Professional (CSP) and Certified Operations Specialist (COS). Vocational skills training such as the National ITE Certificate (NITEC) in Electronics, Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) Operate Forklift and Certificate in Generic Manufacturing (CGM) were also conducted.

²⁷ Inmates may attend more than one training course.

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ Other courses include short-term courses like English literacy classes and basic education programmes (primary to secondary level).

Academic Results

GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 1 'N' Pass)		
Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
100%	100%	100%
GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (10 points or less in best 3 subjects)		
Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
80.0%	78.4%	80.2%
GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (19 points or less in ELMAB3 - English, Mathematics and Best 3)		
Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
68.2%	66.3%	75.6%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 1 'O' Level Pass)		
Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
100%	100%	100%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 3 'O' Level Pass)		
Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
92.8%	90.0%	85.5%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (5 or more 'O' Level Pass)		
Y2013	Y2014	Y2015
69.1%	54.4%	45.3%