

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Embargoed till 30 January 2013**

**GREATER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONTRIBUTES TO LOWER RE-OFFENDING RATES  
Concerted Focus on Stronger Rehabilitation for Drug Offenders**

1. **Singapore, 30 January 2013** – The Singapore Prison Service (SPS) today released key statistical data representing a consecutive decline in the overall recidivism rate<sup>1</sup> for the second year. At 23.6 per cent, the recidivism rate for 2010’s release cohort represents a 3.1 percentage point decrease compared to that of the 2009 cohort. While the overall recidivism rate continued to fall, drug offenders who were released from the Drug Rehabilitation Centres (DRCs) in 2010 recorded a higher percentage of re-offending, accounting for a recidivism rate of 27.5 per cent, or a marginal 0.4 percentage point increase from the previous year.

Table 1: Overall Recidivism Rate

<b>2008 Release Cohort</b>	<b>2009 Release Cohort</b>	<b>2010 Release Cohort</b>
27.3%	26.7%	23.6%

Table 2: Recidivism Rate for DRC Offenders

<b>2008 Release Cohort</b>	<b>2009 Release Cohort</b>	<b>2010 Release Cohort</b>
30.5%	27.1%	27.5%

2. “The lower recidivism rate is an encouragement to the various agencies and community partners involved in giving second chances to ex-offenders and helping them to rehabilitate. However, we are mindful that about 70 per cent<sup>2</sup> of our inmates are those convicted of drug-related offences or admitted to the DRCs for drug abuse and addiction,” said Mr Terrence Goh, Director of SPS’ Rehabilitation and Reintegration Division. “New and enhanced rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives, such as enhanced supervision which was introduced last year, are regularly developed

<sup>1</sup> Recidivism rate is obtained as a percentage of local inmates who are released and subsequently detained or convicted and imprisoned again for a new offence within two years of their release. The overall recidivism rate tracks re-offending rates of inmates from prisons and drug rehabilitation centres.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the total convicted penal inmate population and DRC inmate population of 11,404 in 2012.

to channel multi-agency and community efforts to change the mindsets and lifestyles of offenders and ensure they receive adequate support during their reintegration phase.”

**Enhanced supervision for repeat drug offenders**

3. The enhanced supervision, implemented in November last year, caters to offenders sentenced to Long Term (LT) imprisonment and assessed to be at higher risks of re-offending. Enhanced supervision comprises regular urine tests, strict curfews, electronic monitoring, intensive compulsory counselling and casework among other support for Long Term Imprisonment offenders. Case managers are also assigned to provide them with guidance and referrals on employment opportunities. About 500 high risk LT offenders are expected to undergo enhanced supervision each year in 2013 and 2014.

**More inmates placed on employability skills training**

4. SPS recognises that inadequate education and job skills are two reasons for higher unemployment levels among released offenders compared to other members of society. Beyond offering opportunities for suitable inmates to pursue education, SPS worked with the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) and other external training providers to place about 14 per cent more inmates on skills training programmes in 2012 as compared to 2011. These programmes equip inmates with the relevant competency in areas ranging from food preparation to logistical operations.

Table 3: Employability Skills Training

Category	Y2010	Y2011	Y2012
No. of offenders trained	4,261	5,094	5,800

**More inmates secure employment prior to release**

5. In addition to an integrated network of partners who work together to combat the overall recidivism rates, SPS and its partners have been actively garnering the support of employers and the community to give ex-offenders second chances. More than 500 employers registered with SCORE in 2012 to offer work opportunities to ex-offenders, contributing to a tally of 3,457 employers under SCORE’s employer database. This has further enabled more than 1,700 inmates to secure gainful employment prior to their release in 2012.

Table 4: Number of Employers Registered with SCORE

Y2010	Y2011	Y2012
2,459	2,872	3,457

Table 5: Number of inmates securing jobs prior to release

Y2010	Y2011	Y2012
1,172	1,586	1,708

**Community-based volunteer initiative well-received**

- The Community Outreach Project (COP) is a community-based volunteer initiative driven by SCORE and SPS. COP has seen about 800 families of inmates being offered support through the grassroots with 390 registered and trained volunteers. This is an estimated 69 per cent increase in the number of registered volunteers as compared to 2011. A total of 26 grassroots divisions island-wide have successfully implemented COP on the ground and are actively receiving case referrals from SPS. In the upcoming months, SPS will be working closely with the People’s Association to reach out to divisions which have yet to come on board.

**Collective effort to lower re-offending rates**

- Commenting on the significance of an integrated support system, Mr Terrence Goh added, “It is not a standalone effort to ensure that offenders have a second chance at rebuilding their lives. Over the years, the SPS, CARE Network and many other voluntary welfare organisations have come together to forge a strong alliance to address rehabilitation and reintegration needs. However, this journey towards achieving lower re-offending rates requires more volunteers and potential employers to step forward to sustain an invaluable component of the corrections system.”
- SPS’ community partners are integral to the reintegration support system. SCORE, the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association, the Singapore After-Care Association and various religious and voluntary welfare organisations are critical links that prepare inmates for the post-release phase of their lives with befriending services, religious counselling and support for inmates’ families. Along with fellow Home Team agencies, CARE Network and other voluntary welfare organisations, SPS welcomes more Singaporeans to volunteer and be a part of the collaborative effort to combat re-offending, ultimately contributing to a safer Singapore.

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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 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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## Singapore Prison Service Annual Statistics 2012

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)

Category		Y2010	Y2011	Y2012
<b>Total Convicted Penal Population</b>		<b>11,154</b>	<b>10,028</b>	<b>9,901</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	10,156	9,191	9,077
	Female	998	837	824
<b>Age Group</b>				
<b>Age Group</b>	Below 21	546	413	344
	21 - 30	2,206	1,825	1,673
	31 - 40	3,248	2,714	2,515
	41 - 50	3,279	3,071	3,101
	51 - 60	1,658	1,744	1,956
	Above 60	217	261	312
<b>Education Level<sup>3</sup></b>				
<b>Education Level<sup>3</sup></b>	No Education	172	154	143
	Primary	4,442	4,032	3,924
	Secondary	5,415	4,849	4,785
	Pre - U	173	123	135
	Vocational	670	612	619
	Tertiary & Above	282	258	295
<b>Main Offence Group<sup>4</sup></b>				
<b>Main Offence Group<sup>4</sup></b>	Crimes Against Person	503	569	543
	Property Crimes	1,745	1,685	1,406
	Commercial Crimes	598	694	742
	Drug Offences	6,230	6,061	6,287
	Immigration Offences	475	292	295
	Crime Against Public Order	243	215	171
	Customs Offences		282	211
	Crimes Under Women's Charter	32		
	Traffic Offences	57	48	55
	Other Offences <sup>5</sup>	1,271	182	191

<sup>3</sup> As declared by inmates upon admission.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

## Admissions – Convicted Penal Admissions

Category		Y2010	Y2011	Y2012
<b>Total Convicted Penal Admissions</b>		<b>15,691</b>	<b>12,614</b>	<b>12,530</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	12,658	10,348	10,347
	Female	3,033	2,266	2,183
<b>Admission<sup>6</sup> Age Group</b>	Below 21	960	736	575
	21 - 30	5,066	3,899	3,718
	31 - 40	4,465	3,481	3,471
	41 - 50	3,360	2,780	2,900
	51 - 60	1,549	1,391	1,576
	Above 60	291	327	290
<b>Education Level<sup>7</sup></b>	No Education	402	351	325
	Primary	6,109	4,983	4,619
	Secondary	7,437	5,815	5,903
	Pre - U	466	287	305
	Vocational	697	610	712
	Tertiary & Above	580	568	666
<b>Main Offence Group<sup>8</sup></b>	Crimes Against Person	678	751	812
	Property Crimes	2,237	2,408	2,237
	Commercial Crimes	1,012	1,322	1,483
	Drug Offences	1,878	1,742	2,472
	Immigration Offences	3,933	2,828	2,645
	Crime Against Public Order	250	725	597
	Customs Offences		768	668
	Crimes Under Women's Charter	130		
	Traffic Offences	932	892	766
	Other Offences <sup>9</sup>	4,641	1,178	850

<sup>6</sup> Age as at admission

<sup>7</sup> As declared by inmates upon admission.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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**

Category		Y2010	Y2011	Y2012
<b>Total Remand Population</b>		<b>933</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	825	1,114	974
	Female	108	133	126
<b>Age Group</b>	Below 21	86	81	59
	21 - 30	267	292	260
	31 - 40	249	348	310
	41 - 50	208	314	292
	51 - 60	104	191	156
	Above 60	19	21	23
<b>Education Level<sup>10</sup></b>	No Education	27	17	16
	Primary	319	469	366
	Secondary	486	612	564
	Pre - U	23	26	24
	Vocational	49	77	70
	Tertiary & Above	29	46	60
<b>Main Offence Group<sup>11</sup></b>	Crimes Against Person	106	130	99
	Property Crimes	157	177	199
	Commercial Crimes	47	87	70
	Drug Offences	369	714	578
	Immigration Offences	62	71	63
	Crime Against Public Order	27	27	34
	Customs Offences		12	24
	Crimes Under Women's Charter	12		
	Traffic Offences	9	4	7
	Other Offences <sup>12</sup>	144	25	26

<sup>10</sup> As declared by inmates upon admission.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences, Telecommunication & Computer related Offences.

**Snapshot of DRC<sup>13</sup> inmate population as at 31 December of each year**

Category		Y2010	Y2011	Y2012
<b>Total DRC Population</b>		<b>765</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,503</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	622	1,056	1,225
	Female	143	224	278
<b>Age Group</b>	Below 21	65	134	125
	21 - 30	257	505	591
	31 - 40	213	288	363
	41 - 50	155	201	250
	51 - 60	68	130	153
	Above 60	7	22	21
<b>Education Level<sup>14</sup></b>	No Education	11	13	26
	Primary	210	350	384
	Secondary	442	743	847
	Pre - U	10	12	20
	Vocational	63	113	168
	Tertiary & Above	29	49	58

**DRC inmate admissions**

Category		Y2010	Y2011	Y2012
<b>Total DRC Admissions</b>		<b>688</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>1,384</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	554	1,006	1,118
	Female	134	225	266
<b>Admission Age Group<sup>15</sup></b>	Below 21	69	150	142
	21 - 30	238	510	556
	31 - 40	184	253	326
	41 - 50	142	188	209
	51 - 60	48	114	132
	Above 60	7	16	19
<b>Education Level<sup>16</sup></b>	No Education	10	12	26
	Primary	179	322	342
	Secondary	404	720	783
	Pre - U	9	10	22
	Vocational	58	116	158
	Tertiary & Above	28	51	53

<sup>13</sup> DRC Regime is meant for local inmates only.

<sup>14</sup> & <sup>16</sup> As declared by inmates upon admission.

<sup>15</sup> Age as at admission



### Releases – Convicted Penal Releases

Category		Y2010	Y2011	Y2012
Total Convicted Penal Releases		15,867	13,726	12,818
Gender	Male	12,828	11,295	10,620
	Female	3,039	2,431	2,198

### Releases – DRC Releases

Category		Y2010	Y2011	Y2012
Total DRC Releases		512	705	1,152
Gender	Male	409	564	938
	Female	103	141	214

### Number of Capital Executions

Executions	Y2010	Y2011	Y2012
Murder	0	2	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Drug	0	2	0
Total	0	4	0

### Major Incidents

Major Incidents	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012 (Until 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2012)
Escape Rate per 10,000	0	0	0
Assault Rate <sup>17</sup> per 10,000	29.4	33.4	33.0

### Recidivism Rates<sup>18</sup>

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2008	Release Cohort 2009	Release Cohort 2010
Overall	27.3%	26.7%	23.6%
Penal	27.1%	26.7%	23.3%
DRC	30.5%	27.1%	27.5%

<sup>17</sup> 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).

<sup>18</sup> 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.

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

<b>Emplacement Number</b>	<b>Y2010</b>	<b>Y2011</b>	<b>Y2012</b>
<b>CBP for Penal inmates</b>	1,601	1,359	1,290
<b>CBP for DRC inmates</b>	324	405	697

<b>Completion Rates</b>	<b>Y2010</b>	<b>Y2011</b>	<b>Y2012</b>
<b>CBP for Penal inmates</b>	92.8%	93.4%	94.7%
<b>CBP for DRC inmates</b>	80.5%	75.9%	84.7%

### Vocational Programmes

<b>Employability Skills Training<sup>19</sup></b>			
<b>Yearly Enrolment</b>	<b>Y2010</b>	<b>Y2011</b>	<b>Y2012</b>
<b>No. of training places</b>	13,472	14,754	19,788
<b>No. of inmates trained</b>	4,261	5,094	5,800

<b>Work Programmes<sup>20</sup></b>			
<b>Engaged in Work</b>	<b>Y2010</b>	<b>Y2011</b>	<b>Y2012</b>
<b>Average No. of Inmates</b>	4,371	4,273	4,183

### Academic Programmes

<b>Yearly Enrolment</b>	<b>Y2010</b>	<b>Y2011</b>	<b>Y2012</b>
<b>Other Courses<sup>21</sup></b>	762	457	1,127
<b>N Level</b>	101	72	107
<b>O Level</b>	75	110	90
<b>A Level</b>	20	11	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>1,337</b>

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> Other courses include short term courses like English literacy classes and basic education programmes (primary to secondary level).

**Academic Results**

<b>GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates</b>			
<b>(At least 1 'N' Pass)</b>			
	<b>Y2010</b>	<b>Y2011</b>	<b>Y2012</b>
<b>Prison Candidates</b>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates</b>			
<b>(10 points or less in best 3 subjects)</b>			
	<b>Y2010</b>	<b>Y2011</b>	<b>Y2012</b>
<b>Prison Candidates</b>	80.2%	94.2%	82.1%
<b>GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates</b>			
<b>(19 points or less in ELMAB3)</b>			
	<b>Y2010</b>	<b>Y2011</b>	<b>Y2012</b>
<b>Prison Candidates</b>	63.3%	93.6%	76.6%
<b>GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates</b>			
<b>(At least 1 'O' Pass)</b>			
	<b>Y2010</b>	<b>Y2011</b>	<b>Y2012</b>
<b>Prison Candidates</b>	100.0%	96.7%	100.0%
<b>GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates</b>			
<b>(At least 3 'O' Passes)</b>			
	<b>Y2010</b>	<b>Y2011</b>	<b>Y2012</b>
<b>Prison Candidates</b>	77.4%	83.0%	88.2%
<b>GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates</b>			
<b>(5 or more 'O' Passes)</b>			
	<b>Y2010</b>	<b>Y2011</b>	<b>Y2012</b>
<b>Prison Candidates</b>	41.7%	56.1%	69.0%