

NEWS RELEASE

Community-based Rehabilitation to Reduce Re-offending

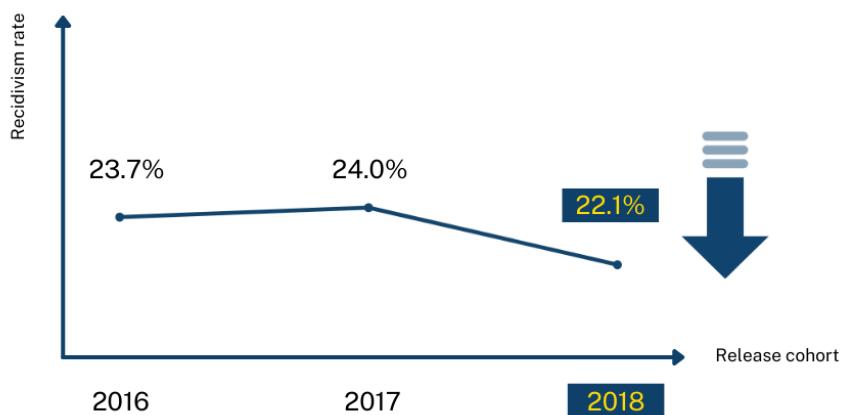
In the last year, the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) continued to work closely with Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG), community partners and volunteers to support inmates’ rehabilitation and reintegration to reduce their risk of re-offending. As a result of these collective efforts, the overall recidivism rate has remained low and stable. SPS also implemented additional measures to protect inmates and staff from COVID-19, and provided strong throughcare support for inmates after their release from prison.

Recidivism Rate Remained Low and Stable

2. The overall recidivism rate has remained low and stable over the past three years.¹

Low and Stable Recidivism Rate

About 8 out of 10 inmates who were released in 2018 did not return to prison within 2 years of release.



3. To prevent re-offending, SPS adopts a throughcare approach in rehabilitating inmates, and works with Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG), community partners and volunteers.

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. This definition has been applied to the 2018 release cohort onwards.

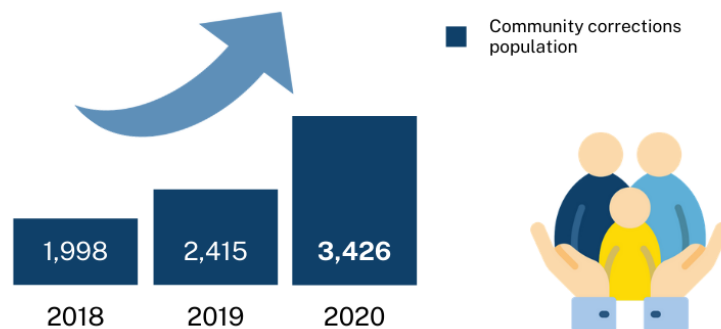
- a. During their time in prison (referred to as incare), SPS provides rehabilitation programmes to mitigate the risks of re-offending; to address inmates' rehabilitation and reintegration needs; as well as to prepare them to become individuals who can contribute positively to society. These include programmes to increase their motivation to change, psychology-based correctional programmes, vocational skills training, work programmes, family-based programmes and religious counselling.
- b. SPS, together with our community partners, continues to support and supervise inmates when they are released from prison (referred to as aftercare).

More Inmates Placed on Community Corrections

4. Most inmates require support during the transition from incare to aftercare. SPS provides step-down aftercare support and supervision through community corrections, to facilitate the smooth reintegration of inmates into the community after their release from prison.² This approach further reduces their risk of re-offending, and we have therefore increased the number of such inmates on community corrections over time. As at end-2020, there was around a 42 per cent increase in the number of inmates undergoing rehabilitation in the community, compared to end-2019.

More Undergoing Community Corrections

An increasing number of inmates undergo rehabilitation in the community while still being supervised by SPS.



5. Inmates on community corrections, known as supervisees, are guided by SPS's Reintegration Officers and Correctional Rehabilitation Specialists, staff from Halfway Houses, as well as case managers from SPS's partner agencies. Many also receive employment assistance from YRSG's career coaches.

6. Completion rates of community corrections remain high, exceeding 90 per cent in 2020.

COVID-19 Precautionary Measures and Response

² The types of community corrections managed by SPS are Community-Based Programmes (CBPs), Mandatory Aftercare Scheme and Community-Based Sentences.

7. SPS is committed to our mission of ensuring the safe and secure custody of inmates. This includes protecting them from the COVID-19 pandemic. SPS has implemented a range of precautionary measures for both inmates and staff to minimise the risk of infection, ensure early detection of infection, and minimise the risk of an outbreak in our prisons.

8. All newly admitted inmates in the Changi Prison Complex are segregated for 14 days, away from the general inmate population. They undergo swab tests for COVID-19 upon admission and at the end of the segregation period before they are allowed to join the general inmate population. As part of sentinel surveillance, SPS routinely conducts the Polymerase Chain Reaction test for staff and partners working with inmates.

>16,500



Swab tests conducted for inmates & staff

9. SPS works closely with the courts, the hospitals and other partners to implement Safe Management Measures (SMMs) for inmates who need to go for appointments, such as for court hearings and medical care. Video conferencing is utilised where possible for court hearings to minimise movement and physical contact.³ With the support of community partners, religious counselling, skills training and other rehabilitation programmes have since resumed, with SMMs in place.

>4,700



Court hearings held via Zoom video conferencing

10. SPS also works with YRSG to identify job opportunities for inmates, before they complete their sentence or are released into the community on Community-Based Programmes (CBPs). In light of COVID-19, job placement interviews by potential employers has been carried out through the use of video conferencing.⁴ This ensures that inmates can still secure a job and become productive and responsible citizens, even in the midst of the pandemic and especially given the current economic uncertainties.

690



Inmates secured jobs through virtual interviews

11. SPS will continue to adopt evidence-based approaches in its correctional work. However, effective corrections can only be achieved with support and acceptance from the community. With such support, inmates can be successfully rehabilitated to contribute towards a safe and secure Singapore.

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³ SPS began facilitating court hearings via Zoom since April 2020.

⁴ YRSG began facilitating virtual job placement interviews since June 2020.



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.

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 2020

Total Offender Population in Prisons and in the Community⁵

Offender Population	2018	2019	2020
Incare	10,809	10,570	9,242
Community Corrections	1,998	2,415	3,426
Total	12,807	12,985	12,668

Recidivism Rates⁶

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2016	Release Cohort 2017	Release Cohort 2018
Overall	23.7%	24.0%	22.1%
Penal	23.7%	23.1%	21.4%
DRC	23.8%	28.1%	25.9%

⁵ The figures are correct as at 31st December of the respective years.

⁶ 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. This definition has been applied to the 2018 release cohort onwards.



Convicted Penal Inmate Population⁷

Category		2018	2019	2020
Total Convicted Penal Population		8,781	8,078	6,934
Gender	Male	7,892	7,259	6,249
	Female	889	819	685
Age Group	Below 21	235	248	263
	21 – 30	1,466	1,347	1,215
	31 – 40	1,856	1,754	1,507
	41 – 50	2,385	2,040	1,651
	51 – 60	2,058	1,914	1,581
	61 – 65	559	530	488
	66 and Above	222	245	229
Education Level⁸	No Education	147	128	102
	Primary	2,975	2,564	2,051
	Secondary	4,257	3,942	3,426
	Pre – U	258	292	257
	Vocational	750	774	732
	Tertiary and Above	394	378	366
Main Offence Group⁹	Crimes Against Person	705	701	692
	Property Crimes	970	862	712
	Commercial Crimes	447	448	370
	Drug Offences	6,030	5,420	4,646
	Immigration Offences	64	59	23
	Crime Against Public Order	149	145	138
	Customs Offences	220	271	186
	Traffic Offences	58	39	52
	Other Offences ¹⁰	138	133	115

⁷ Convicted penal inmate population refers to the number of sentenced inmates who were in SPS's custody on 31st December of the respective years.

⁸ As declared by inmates upon admission.

⁹ Inmates are grouped according to their aggravated (i.e. most serious) offence.

¹⁰ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration offences, National Service-related offences and telecommunication & computer-related offences.

Convicted Penal Admissions¹¹

Category		2018	2019	2020
Total Convicted Penal Admissions		9,471	8,574	6,219
Gender	Male	8,335	7,548	5,511
	Female	1,136	1,026	708
Admission¹² Age Group	Below 21	332	332	217
	21 - 30	2,715	2,431	1,672
	31 - 40	2,520	2,386	1,756
	41 - 50	2,049	1,730	1,216
	51 - 60	1,369	1,215	958
	61 - 65	324	297	241
	66 and Above	162	183	159
Education Level¹³	No Education	191	175	106
	Primary	2,195	1,754	1,280
	Secondary	4,709	4,085	2,833
	Pre – U	531	636	392
	Vocational	1,025	1,137	908
	Tertiary and Above	820	787	700
Main Offence Group¹⁴	Crimes Against Person	1,282	1,303	1,160
	Property Crimes	1,465	1,386	910
	Commercial Crimes	771	762	565
	Drug Offences	1,958	1,416	964
	Immigration Offences	735	698	310
	Crime Against Public Order	909	742	564
	Customs Offences	501	528	366
	Traffic Offences	1,271	962	734
	Other Offences ¹⁵	579	777	646

¹¹ Convicted penal admission figures refers to the number of persons admitted to serve a prison sentence in the respective calendar years.

¹² Age as at admission.

¹³ As declared by inmates upon admission.

¹⁴ Inmates are grouped according to their aggravated (i.e. most serious) offence.

¹⁵ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration offences, National Service-related offences and telecommunication & computer-related offences.

Remand Population¹⁶

Category		2018	2019	2020
Total Remand Population		1,391	1,135	1,182
Gender	Male	1,281	1,044	1,092
	Female	110	91	90
Age Group	Below 21	57	43	50
	21 - 30	387	309	334
	31 - 40	351	328	322
	41 - 50	297	236	235
	51 - 60	231	174	168
	61 - 65	47	33	52
	66 and Above	21	12	21
Education Level¹⁷	No Education	21	24	16
	Primary	331	258	234
	Secondary	752	572	614
	Pre - U	72	70	75
	Vocational	145	137	160
	Tertiary and Above	70	74	83
Main Offence Group¹⁸	Crimes Against Person	178	205	236
	Property Crimes	234	209	172
	Commercial Crimes	82	98	69
	Drug Offences	728	489	542
	Immigration Offences	15	10	8
	Crime Against Public Order	53	44	53
	Customs Offences	41	28	38
	Traffic Offences	17	14	19
	Other Offences ¹⁹	43	38	45

¹⁶ Remand population figures refer to the number of remand inmates who were in SPS's custody on 31st December of the respective years.

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.



DRC Inmate Population²⁰

Category		2018	2019	2020
Total DRC Population		1,461	2,309	2,984
Gender	Male	1,171	1,938	2,513
	Female	290	371	471
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	131	115	126
	21 – 30	586	615	699
	31 – 40	389	592	677
	41 – 50	200	412	609
	51 – 60	112	431	581
	61 - 65	28	93	199
	66 and Above	15	51	93
Education Level ²¹				
Education Level ²¹	No Education	10	31	51
	Primary	253	552	787
	Secondary	780	1,127	1,405
	Pre – U	83	110	115
	Vocational	223	351	420
	Tertiary and Above	112	138	206

²⁰ 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.

²¹ As declared by inmates upon admission.



DRC Inmate Admissions²²

Category		2018	2019	2020
Total DRC Admissions		1,257	2,080	1,905
Gender	Male	986	1,745	1,560
	Female	271	335	345
Admission Age Group²³				
Admission Age Group²³	Below 21	138	136	137
	21 - 30	529	552	587
	31 - 40	316	515	425
	41 - 50	167	378	344
	51 - 60	78	376	276
	61-65	19	82	96
	66 & Above	10	41	40
Education Level²⁴				
Education Level²⁴	No Education	10	27	33
	Primary	207	499	433
	Secondary	666	1,008	893
	Pre - U	75	97	87
	Vocational	199	324	274
	Tertiary and Above	100	125	185

²² The figures refer to the number of persons admitted to DRC in the respective calendar years.

²³ Age as at admission.

²⁴ As declared by inmates upon admission.



Criminal Law Detainee (CLD) Population²⁵

Category		2018	2019	2020
Total CLD Population		104	97	98
Gender	Male	104	97	98
	Female	0	0	0
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	3	4	6
	21 - 30	56	58	56
	31 - 40	33	24	29
	41 - 50	9	9	6
	51 - 60	2	1	0
	61 - 65	1	1	1
	66 and Above	0	0	0
Education Level²⁶				
Education Level²⁶	No Education	3	2	0
	Primary	11	10	12
	Secondary	74	70	69
	Pre - U	1	3	5
	Vocational	13	10	10
	Tertiary and Above	2	2	2
Type of Criminal Activity				
Type of Criminal Activity	Secret Societies	93	88	95
	Unlicensed Moneylending	9	9	3
	Drug Trafficking	1	0	0
	Others	1	0	0

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ As declared by inmates upon admission.

Releases – Convicted Penal Releases

Category		2018	2019	2020
Total Convicted Penal		9,492	9,149	7,332
Gender	Male	8,398	8,058	6,493
	Female	1,094	1,091	839

Releases – DRC Releases

Category		2018	2019	2020
Total DRC Releases		1,170	1,231	1,212
Gender	Male	920	980	976
	Female	250	251	236

Number of Judicial Executions

Executions	2018	2019	2020
Murder	2	2	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Drug	11	2	0
Total	13	4	0

Major Incidents²⁷

Major Incidents	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020 (up to Dec 2020)
Escape Rate Per 10,000 Inmate Population	0	0	0
Assault Rate Per 10,000²⁸ Inmate Population	39.1	46.1	35.9

²⁷ Major incidents are measured per fiscal year (FY) as published in the annual Budget Book.

²⁸ 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	2018	2019	2020
CBP for Penal Inmates	1,098	1,420	1,410
CBP for DRC Inmates	952	1,140	1,635

Completion Rates	2018	2019	2020
CBP for Penal inmates	98.5%	95.7%	95.2%
CBP for DRC inmates	86.3%	87.6%	90.1%

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

Day Reporting Order (DRO) ²⁹	2018	2019	2020
Number of Offenders Sentenced	26	31	41
Completion Rates	100.0%	90.5%	96.7%

Short Detention Order (SDO) ³⁰	2018	2019	2020
Number of Offenders Sentenced	23	22	31
Completion Rates	100%	100%	100%

Emplacement and Completion Rates for Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS)³¹

Mandatory Aftercare Scheme	2018	2019	2020
Number of Inmates Emplaced	734	1,139	1,349
Completion Rates	93.0%	91.4%	94.0%

²⁹ A Day Reporting Order is a Community-Based Sentencing option introduced in the Criminal Procedure Code 2010, whereby an offender reports to a day reporting centre for counselling and rehabilitation programmes, instead of serving a sentence in prison.

³⁰ A Short Detention Order is a Community-Based Sentencing option introduced in the Criminal Procedure Code 2010, whereby an offender is detained in prison for a period not exceeding 14 days.

³¹ With the amendment of the Prisons Act in 2014, 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

Employability Skills Training³²			
Yearly Enrolment	2018	2019	2020
Number of Training Places	25,861	26,972	15,141 ³³
Number of Inmates Trained³⁴	4,340	5,923	4,717

Work Programmes³⁵			
Engaged in Work Programmes	2018	2019	2020
Average Number of Inmates	3,352	3,104	2,902

Employment Assistance

Number of Employers Registered with YRSG		
2018	2019	2020
5,307	5,603	5,895

Percentage of Inmates Referred to YRSG and Secured a Job Prior to Release		
2018	2019	2020
96%	96%	93%

³² Employability Skills Training Programmes are provided by SPS and YRSG to equip inmates with relevant job skills. SPS and YRSG's training system is aligned to Workforce Singapore's Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) framework. Examples of training offered include Workplace Literacy (WPL), Employability Skills, Certified Operations Professional (COP) and Certified Operations Specialist (COS). Vocational skills training such as the WSQ Operate Forklift and Certificate in Generic Manufacturing (CGM), WSQ Retail Operations, and WSQ Hotel Accommodation and Services were also conducted.

³³ Skills training was suspended during the Circuit Breaker period and resumed from July 2020, with SMMs in place.

³⁴ Number of unique inmates – inmates may attend more than one training course.

³⁵ Work programmes aim to impart 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.

Academic Programmes

Yearly Enrolment	2018	2019	2020
Other Courses ³⁶	166	94	46
'NA' Level	120	111	124
'NT' Level	86	142	116
'O' Level	95	87	82
'A' Level	66	49	45
Diploma	-	53	28
Degree	-	-	8
Total	533	536	449

Academic Results

GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'NA' Pass)		
2018	2019	2020
100%	100%	100%
GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (19 points or less in ELMAB3 - English, Mathematics and Best 3)		
2018	2019	2020
56.7%	66.2%	66.2%
GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (5 'NA' Passes)		
2018	2019	2020
67.8%	74.3%	77.9%
GCE 'NT' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'NT' Pass)		
2018	2019	2020
100%	100%	100%
GCE 'NT' Level Results of Prison Candidates (3 'NT' Passes)		
2018	2019	2020
73.1%	86.8%	82.7%
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'O' Level Pass)		
2018	2019	2020
100%	98.3%	94.3%
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 3 'O' Level Passes)		
2018	2019	2020
81.7%	84.5%	79.2%
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (5 or more 'O' Level Passes)		
2018	2019	2020
34.5%	52.8%	40.4%

³⁶ Other courses include short-term courses such as English literacy classes and basic education programmes (primary to secondary level). Some classes offered previously under 'Other Courses' are now reclassified under Employability Skills Training programmes. NITEC courses were temporarily suspended in 2020 and will resume in 2021. The impact of COVID-19 and decrease in demand for English literacy classes had also contributed to the decreased enrolment for 2020.