

News Release

HARNESSING COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS TO PREVENT RE-OFFENDING

The Singapore Prison Service (SPS) ensures the safe custody of inmates, and their rehabilitation to minimise re-offending.

Recidivism rates remained low and stable

2. The overall recidivism rate¹ remained low and stable over the past three years (Table 1). Besides offenders’ personal commitment to change, factors such as employment, accommodation, family and community support also help reduce recidivism.

Table 1: Overall Recidivism Rate

2014 Release Cohort	2015 Release Cohort	2016 Release Cohort
26.5%	25.9%	23.7%

More offenders placed on Community Corrections

3. SPS’s rehabilitation efforts span in-care programmes and step-down support after release. In 2018, SPS continued to place suitable offenders on structured and calibrated aftercare upon their release, to further enhance their rehabilitation and reintegration into society, with the aim of minimising re-offending. Community Corrections includes various community-based schemes that allow offenders to achieve a smoother reintegration into the community, while still being subject to supervision and undergoing rehabilitation programmes.²

4. Superintendent of Prisons (SUPT) Karen Lee Tze Sein, Deputy Director, Community Corrections Command (COMC) said: “The work of Prisons does not end when an inmate is released. Research and experience have shown that rehabilitation is more effective in a real world setting, as it enables the offender to face and work through his real-life stressors. Recognising this, SPS provides a step-down approach for them to make a seamless transition from in-care to aftercare.”

5. As at 31 Dec 2018, there were 12,807 offenders serving their sentences, of whom 10,809 are in prison while 1,998 are undergoing Community Corrections programmes (Table 2).

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.

² Community Corrections also includes Community-Based Sentences. Please see paragraph 7.

Table 2: Total Offender Population in Prisons and in the Community as at 31 Dec

Offender population	2016	2017	2018
In-care	11,503	10,948	10,809
Community Corrections	1,894	1,688	1,998
Total	13,397	12,636	12,807

Mandatory Aftercare Scheme for inmates who require more support

6. The Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS) was introduced in 2014 to provide step-down, structured aftercare for inmates with higher risks of re-offending, and for those who require more support after their release. These inmates attend a pre-release programme in prison (at the Pre-Release Centre) which addresses their criminogenic needs (such as characteristics, traits, or behaviours of an offender that could increase their likelihood of re-offending) for up to nine months prior to release, and receive supervision and aftercare support for at least 12 months after release. In the past three years, more than 1,200 inmates had been placed on MAS, with high completion rates of 91.6% and above for inmates due to complete MAS in the respective year (Table 3). Please refer to the attached infographic for more information on the MAS.

Table 3: Number of Inmates and Completion Rates for the Mandatory Aftercare Scheme³

Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS)	2016	2017	2018
Number of Inmates	215	314	734
Completion Rates	95.6%	91.6%	93.0%

Completion rates for Community-Based Sentences managed by SPS remain high

7. Community-Based Sentencing (CBS) provides the Courts with alternative sentencing options for low-risk offenders which do not result in a criminal record or stigma arising from imprisonment. SPS manages the Day Reporting Order (DRO)⁴ and Short Detention Order (SDO) for low-risk, first-time offenders. The DRO has seen consistently high completion rates over the past three years (Table 4). Offenders sentenced to SDO are given a short detention capped at 14 days. There is a 100% completion rate for the SDO for the 84 offenders in the past three years (Table 5).

³ Offenders are placed on MAS for a duration of up to 24 months.

⁴ Offenders sentenced to DRO will undergo risk assessment and have individualised case management plans that meet their rehabilitation needs. Each DRO typically ranges from three to 12 months, and offenders are required to report regularly to the Day Reporting Centre located in the community to attend programmes, instead of serving their sentences in prison. An SPS Correctional Rehabilitation Specialist (CRS) will also provide counselling and employment assistance, and engage the offenders' family and support networks.

Table 4: Sentencing Numbers and Completion Rates for Day Reporting Order (DRO)

Day Reporting Order (DRO)	2016	2017	2018
Number of Offenders Sentenced	58	27	26
Completion Rates	97.1%	87.2%	100.0%

Table 5: Sentencing Numbers and Completion Rates for Short Detention Order (SDO)

Short Detention Order (SDO)	2016	2017	2018
Number of Offenders Sentenced	29	32	23
Completion Rates	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Employment crucial to reintegration

8. SPS works closely with its key partner, the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE), to match offenders with viable job opportunities, even before they complete their sentence or are released into the community. In 2018, there were 5,307 employers registered with SCORE (Table 6). 96% of inmates who were referred to SCORE secured a job with these employers before their release (Table 7).

Table 6: Number of Employers Registered with SCORE

2016	2017	2018
5,093	5,520	5,307

Table 7: Percentage of Inmates Referred to SCORE who Secured a Job Prior to Release

2016	2017	2018
96%	97%	96%

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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, working closely with its partners in aftercare and prevention. SPS is committed to realising its Captains of Lives vision. Its team of uniformed officers and civilian staff work together to steer ex-offenders towards becoming responsible citizens with the help of their families and the community.

About the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises

The Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) is a key partner of SPS and plays an important role in our correctional system by creating a safe and secure Singapore through the provision of rehabilitation and aftercare services to inmates and ex-offenders. SCORE adopts a multi-faceted approach to enhance the employability of offenders and prepare them for their eventual reintegration into the national workforce by focusing on skills training, employment assistance, the development of the aftercare sector, and community engagement. One of its key engagement initiatives is the Yellow Ribbon Project. With the support of the community, SCORE aims to rebuild lives of ex-offenders by helping them enhance their employability potential.

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Singapore Prison Service Annual Statistics 2018

Convicted Penal Population as at 31 December⁵

Category		2016	2017	2018
Total Convicted Penal Population		9,502	8,885	8,781
Gender	Male	8,623	8,051	7,892
	Female	879	834	889
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	278	227	235
	21 – 30	1,532	1,441	1,466
	31 – 40	1,971	1,856	1,856
	41 – 50	2,875	2,555	2,385
	51 – 60	2,265	2,133	2,058
	61 - 65	421	491	559
	66 and above	160	182	222
Education Level⁶				
Education Level⁶	No Education	161	149	147
	Primary	3,496	3,151	2,975
	Secondary	4,591	4,301	4,257
	Pre – U	193	180	258
	Vocational	695	691	750
	Tertiary & Above	366	413	394
Main Offence Group⁷				
Main Offence Group⁷	Crimes Against Person	607	655	705
	Property Crimes	1,005	966	970
	Commercial Crimes	508	440	447
	Drug Offences	6,666	6,178	6,030
	Immigration Offences	123	102	64
	Crime Against Public Order	147	126	149
	Customs Offences	215	226	220
	Traffic Offences	72	62	58
	Other Offences ⁸	159	130	138

⁵ Convicted penal population refers to the number of inmates who have already been charged and are within the inmate population as at the end of the respective year.

⁶ As declared by inmates upon admission.

⁷ Inmates are tracked based on index (i.e. most serious) offence.

⁸ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences and Telecommunication & Computer Related Offences.

Convicted Penal Admissions as at 31 December⁹

Category		2016	2017	2018
Total Convicted Penal Admissions		10,211	8,974	9,471
Gender	Male	8,880	7,847	8,335
	Female	1,331	1,127	1,136
Admission¹⁰ Age Group	Below 21	429	304	332
	21 - 30	3,052	2,600	2,715
	31 - 40	2,612	2,415	2,520
	41 - 50	2,326	2,008	2,049
	51 - 60	1,431	1,274	1,369
	61 - 65	237	249	324
	66 and above	124	124	162
Education Level¹¹	No Education	144	162	191
	Primary	3,036	2,500	2,195
	Secondary	5,103	4,375	4,709
	Pre - U	358	268	531
	Vocational	815	873	1,025
	Tertiary & Above	755	796	820
Main Offence Group¹²	Crimes Against Person	1,060	1,091	1,282
	Property Crimes	1,628	1,417	1,465
	Commercial Crimes	883	823	771
	Drug Offences	2,126	1,690	1,958
	Immigration Offences	1,020	970	735
	Crime Against Public Order	770	844	909
	Customs Offences	347	578	501
	Traffic Offences	964	1,016	1,271
	Other Offences ¹³	1,413	545	579

⁹ Convicted Penal Admission figures refers to the number of inmate admissions for the calendar year.

¹⁰ Age as at admission.

¹¹ As declared by inmates upon admission.

¹² Inmates are tracked based on index (i.e. most serious) offence.

¹³ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences, and Telecommunication & Computer Related Offences.

Remand Population as at 31 December¹⁴

Category		2016	2017	2018
Total Remand Population		1,144	1,343	1,391
Gender	Male	1,007	1,214	1,281
	Female	137	129	110
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	49	45	57
	21 - 30	349	395	387
	31 - 40	318	374	351
	41 - 50	250	293	297
	51 - 60	140	191	231
	61 - 65	26	32	47
	66 and above	12	13	21
Education Level¹⁵				
Education Level¹⁵	No Education	19	32	21
	Primary	328	353	331
	Secondary	606	697	752
	Pre - U	28	59	72
	Vocational	87	134	145
	Tertiary & Above	76	68	70
Main Offence Group¹⁶				
Main Offence Group¹⁶	Crimes Against Person	157	195	178
	Property Crimes	206	234	234
	Commercial Crimes	74	82	82
	Drug Offences	580	698	728
	Immigration Offences	36	18	15
	Crime Against Public Order	36	48	53
	Customs Offences	22	30	41
	Traffic Offences	11	16	17
	Other Offences ¹⁷	22	22	43

¹⁴ Remand population figures refer to the number of remand inmates who are within the prison population as at the end of the respective year.

¹⁵ As declared by inmates upon admission.

¹⁶ Inmates are tracked based on index (most serious) offence only.

¹⁷ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration Offences, National Service Related Offences, and Telecommunication & Computer Related Offences.

DRC Population as at 31 December¹⁸

Category		2016	2017	2018
Total DRC Population		1,464	1,360	1,461
Gender	Male	1,199	1093	1,171
	Female	265	267	290
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	88	116	131
	21 – 30	640	535	586
	31 – 40	407	411	389
	41 – 50	202	183	200
	51 – 60	96	88	112
	61 - 65	20	21	28
	66 and above	11	6	15
Education Level¹⁹				
Education Level¹⁹	No Education	11	9	10
	Primary	269	199	253
	Secondary	805	808	780
	Pre – U	46	35	83
	Vocational	221	189	223
	Tertiary & Above	112	120	112

¹⁸ The DRC Regime is meant for local inmates only. The figures refer to the number of DRC inmates who are among the inmate population as at the end of the respective year.

¹⁹ As declared by inmates upon admission.

DRC Admissions as at 31 December²⁰

Category		2016	2017	2018
Total DRC Admissions		1,263	1,152	1,257
Gender	Male	1,017	913	986
	Female	246	239	271
Admission Age Group²¹				
Admission Age Group²¹	Below 21	99	121	138
	21 - 30	593	487	529
	31 - 40	329	322	316
	41 - 50	157	135	167
	51 - 60	67	67	78
	61-65	11	16	19
	66 and above	7	4	10
Education Level²²				
Education Level²²	No Education	11	7	10
	Primary	220	157	207
	Secondary	683	681	666
	Pre - U	43	30	75
	Vocational	200	167	199
	Tertiary & Above	106	110	100

²⁰ The figures refer to the number of DRC inmate admissions for the calendar year.

²¹ Age as at admission.

²² As declared by inmates upon admission.

Criminal Law Detainee (CLD) Population as at 31 December²³

Category		2016	2017	2018
Total CLD Population		109	103	104
Gender	Male	109	103	104
	Female	0	0	0
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	2	4	3
	21 - 30	55	51	56
	31 - 40	35	33	33
	41 - 50	12	10	9
	51 - 60	4	4	2
	61 - 65	1	1	1
	66 and above	0	0	0
Education Level²⁴				
Education Level²⁴	No Education	2	3	3
	Primary	17	13	11
	Secondary	77	73	74
	Pre - U	2	1	1
	Vocational	10	12	13
	Tertiary & Above	1	1	2
Type of Criminal Activity				
Type of Criminal Activity	Secret Societies	91	86	93
	Unlicensed Money-lending	12	11	9
	Drug Trafficking	5	5	1
	Others	1	1	1

Releases – Convicted Penal Releases as at 31 December

Category		2016	2017	2018
Total Convicted Penal		10,371	9,545	9,492
Gender	Male	9,089	8,345	8,398
	Female	1,282	1,200	1,094

Releases – DRC Releases as at 31 December

Category		2016	2017	2018
Total DRC Releases		1,220	1,241	1,170
Gender	Male	949	1,004	920
	Female	271	237	250

²³ The CLD population refers to the number of persons detained under the Criminal Law (Temporary Provision) Act and are among the population as at the end of the respective year.

²⁴ As declared by inmates upon admission.

Number of Judicial Executions as at 31 December

Executions	2016	2017	2018
Murder	2	0	2
Firearms	0	0	0
Drugs	2	8	11
Total	4	8	13

Major Incidents

Major Incidents ²⁵	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018 (as at Dec'18)
Escape Rate per 10,000	0	0	0
Assault Rate ²⁶ per 10,000	24.4	30.4	31.6

Recidivism Rates²⁷

Recidivism	2014 Release Cohort	2015 Release Cohort	2016 Release Cohort
Overall	26.5%	25.9%	23.7%
Penal	25.8%	25.1%	23.7%
DRC	30.1%	29.5%	23.8%

Total Offender Population In Prisons and In The Community as at 31 December

Offender Population	2016	2017	2018
In-care	11,503	10,948	10,809
Community Corrections	1,894	1,688	1,998
Total	13,397	12,636	12,807

²⁵ Major incidents are measured per fiscal year (FY) as published in the annual Budget Book.

²⁶ 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).

²⁷ 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) as at 31 December

Emplacement Number	2016	2017	2018
CBP for Penal inmates	918	951	1,098
CBP for DRC inmates	999	964	952

Completion Rates ²⁸	2016	2017	2018
CBP for Penal inmates	98.1%	97.7%	98.5%
CBP for DRC inmates	88.3%	89.6%	86.3%

Sentencing Numbers and Completion Rates for Community-Based Sentences (CBS) as at 31 December

Day Reporting Order (DRO) ²⁹	2016	2017	2018
Number of offenders sentenced	58	27	26
Completion Rates	97.1%	87.2%	100.0%

Short Detention Order (SDO) ³⁰	2016	2017	2018
Number of offenders sentenced	29	32	23
Completion Rates	100%	100%	100%

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

Mandatory Aftercare Scheme	2016	2017	2018
Number of inmates emplaced	215	314	734
Completion Rates	95.6%	91.6%	93.0%

²⁸ The completion rates for penal and DRC inmates as at 31 December 2016 have been amended to 98.1% and 88.3%, respectively. The completion rate for DRC inmates as at 31 December 2017 has been amended to 89.6%. The variances of between 0.1 to 1.8 percentage points was due to data transference errors. The amended completion rates and accompanying footnotes have been reflected in previous years' Annual Stats Releases in the SPS website.

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 as at 31 December

Employability Skills Training³²			
Yearly Enrolment	2016	2017	2018
No. of training places	22,945	26,846	25,861
No. of inmates trained³³	5,131	4,653	4,340

Work Programmes³⁴			
Engaged in Work Programmes	2016	2017	2018
Average No. of Inmates	3,742	3,606	3,352

³² Employability Skills Training Programmes are provided by SPS and SCORE to equip inmates with relevant job skills. SPS and SCORE's training system is aligned to Workforce Singapore's Workforce Skills Qualifications (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, WSQ Operate Forklift and Certificate in Generic Manufacturing (CGM), WSQ Retail Operations, and WSQ Hotel Accommodation and Services were also conducted.

³³ Inmates may attend more than one training course.

³⁴ 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 a real work environment within prisons.

Academic Programmes as at 31 December

Yearly Enrolment	2016	2017 ³⁵	2018
Other Courses ³⁶	803	153	166
N Level	129	154	206
O Level	97	132	95
A Level	42	60	66
Total	1,071	499	533

Academic Results

GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 1 'N' Pass)		
2016	2017	2018
100%	99.2%	100%
GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (10 points or less in best 3 subjects)		
2016	2017	2018
77.3%	54.6%	64.4%
GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (19 points or less in ELMAB3 - English, Mathematics and Best 3)		
2016	2017	2018
69.1%	48.7%	56.7%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 1 'O' Level Pass)		
2016	2017	2018
100%	100%	100%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 3 'O' Level Pass)		
2016	2017	2018
77.8%	81.3%	81.7%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (5 or more 'O' Level Pass)		
2016	2017	2018
43.5%	41.5%	34.5%

³⁵ The enrolment figures for N Level and O Level as at 31 December 2017 has been amended to 154 and 132 respectively, to reflect the enrolment for academic programmes at the beginning of the calendar year. The amended enrolment figures and accompanying footnotes have been reflected in previous years' Annual Stats Releases in the SPS website.

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.