

News Release

**REHAB, RENEW, RESTART:
DIFFERENTIATED PROGRAMMES KEY TO REDUCING RE-OFFENDING**

The Singapore Prison Service (SPS) reduces re-offending through rehabilitation programmes for offenders and helps them reintegrate into society with the support of their families and the community.

Recidivism Rates Remained Low and Stable

2. The overall recidivism rate¹ for the 2015 release cohort remained low (Table 1). Overall recidivism rates remained stable over the past three years. SPS works closely with its community partners, taking a throughcare approach towards the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. Other key success factors include strong community support, as well as helping ex-offenders secure stable and gainful employment.

Table 1: Overall Recidivism Rate

2013 Release Cohort	2014 Release Cohort	2015 Release Cohort
25.9%	26.5%	25.9%

High, Sustained Completion Rates for Community-Based Programmes

3. Community-Based Programmes (CBP) play a significant role in helping offenders break the cycle of re-offending. Suitable inmates are placed on CBPs at the tail-end of their sentences to facilitate their gradual reintegration into the community. Inmates with 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, where they have the opportunity to work during the day and return to prison at night. CBPs also provide supervision, counselling and case management by community partners to complement the rehabilitation programmes in prison. The level of supervision during CBPs is tiered and differentiated based on the offender’s risk of re-offending.

4. Completion rates for CBP remained high for the 2017 cohort, at 97.7% and 87.8% for penal and DRC inmates respectively (Table 2). Assistant Commissioner of Prisons Rockey Francisco Junior, Director, Community Corrections Command said: “The post-release phase is a crucial period during which ex-offenders experience challenges and pressures upon

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.

returning to their families and the community. Community-Based Programmes provide support and step-down arrangements for inmates, giving them a better chance of staying crime and drug free when released. Our programmes have delivered encouraging results, and we will continue to broaden our community network to support offenders in their efforts to reintegrate into society.”

Table 2: Completion Rates² for Community-Based Programmes

Inmate Category	2015	2016	2017
Penal	96.9%	98.2%	97.7%
DRC	81.7%	88.2%	87.8%

Table 3: Emplacement Number for Community-Based Programmes

Inmate Category	2015	2016	2017
Penal	886	918	951
DRC	1,003	999	964

Community-Based Sentences For Low-Risk Offenders

5. Community-Based Sentencing (CBS) provides the Courts with community-based sentencing options for low-risk offenders. One of the CBS options which SPS administers is the Day Reporting Order (DRO) for low-risk first-time offenders.

6. Offenders sentenced to DRO will undergo risk assessment and have individualised case management plans to suit 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. A Correctional Rehabilitation Specialist (CRS) will also provide counselling and employment assistance, and actively engage the offender’s family and support networks. DRO has seen consistently high completion rates over the past three years (Table 5), and has been shown to be a viable alternative sentencing option in lieu of imprisonment for low-risk offenders.

² The CBP completion rate is derived by dividing the actual number of supervisees who complete CBP within a given month over the number of supervisees who were supposed to complete CBP for that month, averaged across all 12 months in the calendar year.

Table 4: Sentencing Numbers³ for Day Reporting Order (DRO)

2014	2015	2016
63	70	58

Table 5: Completion Rates⁴ for Day Reporting Order (DRO)

2014	2015	2016
93.7%	94.3%	91.4%

Employment and Community Support Crucial to Reintegration

7. As part of its holistic throughcare approach, SPS also works closely with partners such as the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) to match soon-to-be released inmates to jobs.

8. In 2017, the number of employers registered with SCORE increased to a high of 5,520 (Table 6). 97% of inmates who were referred to SCORE secured a job before their release (Table 7).

Table 6: Number of Employers Registered with SCORE

2015	2016	2017
4,745	5,093	5,520

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

2015	2016	2017
96%	95%	97%

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³ Sentencing numbers and completion rates are provided up to end 2016 as DRO sentences take between three and 12 months for completion.

⁴ The DRO completion rate is derived by dividing the number of DRO offenders who have completed DRO at the end of their sentence duration, over the total number of DRO offenders sentenced for that year. As at 31 Dec 2017, 91.4% of the 58 inmates sentenced to DRO in 2016 had successfully completed DRO.

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, working closely 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 steer ex-offenders towards becoming responsible citizens with the help of their family and the community.

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Singapore Prison Service Annual Statistics 2017

Convicted Penal Inmate Population as at 31 December of each year⁵

Category		2015	2016	2017
Total Convicted Penal Population		9,602	9,502	8,885
Gender	Male	8,783	8,623	8,051
	Female	819	879	834
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	247	278	227
	21 – 30	1,459	1,532	1,441
	31 – 40	2,071	1,971	1,856
	41 – 50	2,995	2,875	2,555
	51 – 60	2,320	2,265	2,133
	61 - 65	370	421	491
	66 and above	140	160	182
Education Level⁶				
Education Level⁶	No Education	157	161	149
	Primary	3,652	3,496	3,151
	Secondary	4,665	4,591	4,301
	Pre – U	158	193	180
	Vocational	657	695	691
	Tertiary & Above	313	366	413
Main Offence Group⁷				
Main Offence Group⁷	Crimes Against Person	560	607	655
	Property Crimes	1,136	1,005	966
	Commercial Crimes	488	508	440
	Drug Offences	6,675	6,666	6,178
	Immigration Offences	134	123	102
	Crime Against Public Order	129	147	126
	Customs Offences	88	215	226
	Traffic Offences	73	72	62
	Other Offences ⁸	319	159	130

⁵ Convicted penal inmate 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 December of each year⁹

Category		2015	2016	2017
Total Convicted Penal Admissions		10,635	10,211	8,974
Gender	Male	9,084	8,880	7,847
	Female	1,551	1,331	1,127
Admission¹⁰ Age Group				
	Below 21	478	429	304
	21 - 30	3,324	3,052	2,600
	31 - 40	2,782	2,612	2,415
	41 - 50	2,345	2,326	2,008
	51 - 60	1,328	1,431	1,274
	61 - 65	244	237	249
	66 and above	134	124	124
Education Level¹¹				
	No Education	171	144	162
	Primary	3,347	3,036	2,500
	Secondary	5,233	5,103	4,375
	Pre - U	237	358	268
	Vocational	852	815	873
	Tertiary & Above	795	755	796
Main Offence Group¹²				
	Crimes Against Person	1,043	1,060	1,091
	Property Crimes	1,773	1,628	1,417
	Commercial Crimes	923	883	823
	Drug Offences	2,097	2,126	1,690
	Immigration Offences	1,408	1,020	970
	Crime Against Public Order	608	770	844
	Customs Offences	305	347	578
	Traffic Offences	921	964	1,016
	Other Offences ¹³	1,557	1,413	545

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 December of each year¹⁴

Category		2015	2016	2017
Total Remand Population		1,255	1,144	1,343
Gender	Male	1,133	1,007	1,214
	Female	122	137	129
Age Group				
Age Group	Below 21	65	49	45
	21 - 30	371	349	395
	31 - 40	320	318	374
	41 - 50	307	250	293
	51 - 60	157	140	191
	61 - 65	25	26	32
	66 and above	10	12	13
Education Level¹⁵				
Education Level¹⁵	No Education	21	19	32
	Primary	401	328	353
	Secondary	627	606	697
	Pre - U	32	28	59
	Vocational	99	87	134
	Tertiary & Above	75	76	68
Main Offence Group¹⁶				
Main Offence Group¹⁶	Crimes Against Person	94	157	195
	Property Crimes	204	206	234
	Commercial Crimes	67	74	82
	Drug Offences	683	580	698
	Immigration Offences	39	36	18
	Crime Against Public Order	64	36	48
	Customs Offences	9	22	30
	Traffic Offences	7	11	16
	Other Offences ¹⁷	88	22	22

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 Inmate Population (Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents) as at 31 December of each year¹⁸

Category		2015	2016	2017
Total DRC Population		1,419	1,464	1,360
Gender	Male	1,121	1,199	1,093
	Female	298	265	267
Age Group	Below 21	76	88	116
	21 – 30	633	640	535
	31 – 40	344	407	411
	41 – 50	206	202	183
	51 – 60	132	96	88
	61 - 65	22	20	21
	66 and above	6	11	6
Education Level¹⁹	No Education	6	11	9
	Primary	308	269	199
	Secondary	821	805	808
	Pre – U	22	46	35
	Vocational	178	221	189
	Tertiary & Above	84	112	120

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 Inmate Admissions as at 31 December of each year²⁰

Category		2015	2016	2017
Total DRC Admissions		1,213	1,263	1,152
Gender	Male	942	1,017	913
	Female	271	246	239
Admission Age Group²¹				
Admission Age Group²¹	Below 21	87	99	121
	21 - 30	569	593	487
	31 - 40	288	329	322
	41 - 50	162	157	135
	51 - 60	90	67	67
	61-65	14	11	16
	66 and above	3	7	4
Education Level²²				
Education Level²²	No Education	4	11	7
	Primary	247	220	157
	Secondary	712	683	681
	Pre - U	23	43	30
	Vocational	148	200	167
	Tertiary & Above	79	106	110

²⁰ The figures refer to the number of DRC 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 December of each year²³

Category		2015	2016	2017
Total CLD Population		118	109	103
Gender	Male	117	109	103
	Female	1	0	0
Age Group				
	Below 21	5	2	4
	21 - 30	55	55	51
	31 - 40	38	35	33
	41 - 50	15	12	10
	51 - 60	4	4	4
	61 - 65	0	1	1
	66 and above	1	0	0
Education Level²⁴				
	No Education	4	2	3
	Primary	22	17	13
	Secondary	82	77	73
	Pre - U	2	2	1
	Vocational	7	10	12
	Tertiary & Above	1	1	1
Type of Criminal Activity				
	Secret Societies	89	91	86
	Unlicensed Money-	16	12	11
	Drug Trafficking	8	5	5
	Others	5	1	1

Releases – Convicted Penal Releases

Category		2015	2016	2017
Total Convicted Penal		10,807	10,371	9,545
Gender	Male	9,206	9,089	8,345
	Female	1,601	1,282	1,200

Releases – DRC Releases

Category		2015	2016	2017
Total DRC Releases		1,172	1,220	1,241
Gender	Male	942	949	1,004
	Female	230	271	237

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

²⁴ As declared by inmates upon admission.

Number of Capital Executions as at 31 December of each year

Executions	2015	2016	2017
Murder	1	2	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Drug	3	2	8
Total	4	4	8

Major Incidents

Major Incidents ²⁵	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017 (as at Dec '17)
Escape Rate per 10,000	0	0	0
Assault Rate²⁶ per 10,000	30.0	24.4	19.5

Recidivism Rates²⁷

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2013	Release Cohort 2014	Release Cohort 2015
Overall	25.9%	26.5%	25.9%
Penal	24.7%	25.8%	25.1%
DRC	31.9%	30.1%	29.5%

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

Emplacement Number	2015	2016	2017
CBP for Penal Inmates	886	918	951
CBP for DRC Inmates	1,003	999	964

Completion Rates ²⁸	2015	2016	2017
CBP for Penal Inmates	96.0%	98.1%	97.7%
CBP for DRC Inmates	87.1%	88.3%	89.6%

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 and 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.

²⁸ The completion rates for penal and DRC inmates as at 31 December 2015 have been amended to 96.0% and 87.1% respectively. 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 between 0.1 and 5.4 percentage points were 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.

Sentencing Numbers and Completion Rates for Day Reporting Order (DRO)²⁹ as at 31 December of each year

DRO	2014	2015	2016
Number of Offenders Sentenced	63	70	58
Completion Rates	93.7%	94.3%	91.4%

Vocational Programmes as at 31 December of each year

Employability Skills Training ³⁰			
Yearly Enrolment	2015	2016	2017
No. of Training Places	26,660	22,945	26,846
No. of Inmates Trained ³¹	5,137	5,131	4,653

Work Programmes ³²			
Engaged in Work Programmes	2015	2016	2017
Average No. of Inmates	4,065	3,742	3,606

²⁹ Day Reporting Order (DRO), a Community-Based Sentencing (CBS) option introduced in the Criminal Procedure Code 2010, is administered by SPS whereby an offender reports to a Day Reporting Centre for counselling and rehabilitation programmes instead of serving a sentence in prison. Sentencing numbers and completion rates are provided up to end 2016 as DRO sentences take three to 12 months for completion.

³⁰ 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 WSQ framework. Examples of training offered includes 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.

³¹ Inmates may attend more than one training course.

³² 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 realistic work environments within prisons.

Academic Programmes as at 31 December of each year

Yearly Enrolment	2015	2016	2017 ³³
Other Courses ³⁴	704	803	153
N Level	101	129	154
O Level	108	97	132
A Level	30	42	60
Total	943	1,071	499

Academic Results

GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 1 'N' Pass)		
2015	2016	2017
100%	100%	99.2%
GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (10 points or less in best 3 subjects)		
2015	2016	2017
80.2%	77.3%	54.6%
GCE 'N' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (19 points or less in ELMAB3 - English, Mathematics and Best 3)		
2015	2016	2017
75.6%	69.1%	48.7%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 1 'O' Level Pass)		
2015	2016	2017
100%	100%	100%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (At least 3 'O' Level Pass)		
2015	2016	2017
85.5%	77.8%	81.3%
GCE 'O' Levels Results of Prisons Candidates (5 or more 'O' Level Pass)		
2015	2016	2017
45.3%	43.5%	41.5%

³³ 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.

³⁴ 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.