

Prison Health IS Public Health

Presentation to LEPH2018 Conference

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October 22, 2018

Toronto, Ontario

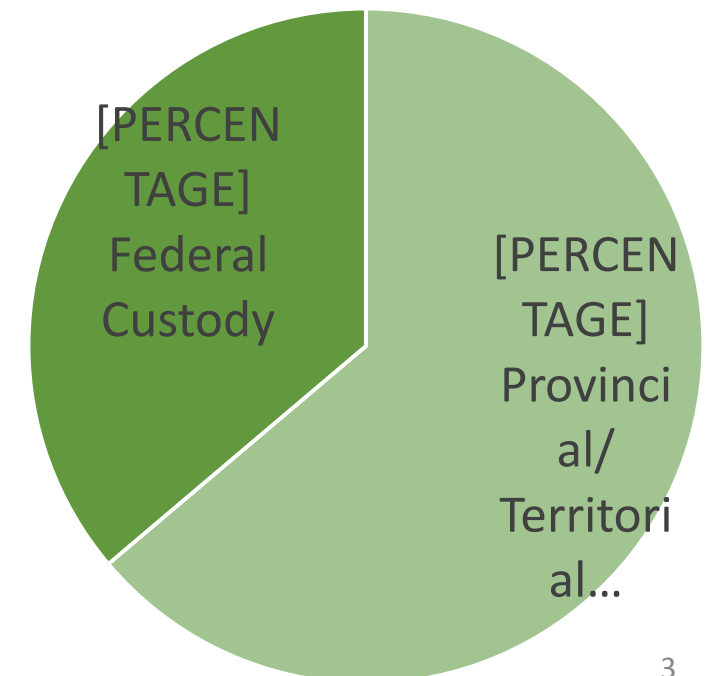
Presentation Outline

- Who is incarcerated?
- Principles governing health in correctional facilities
 - Canada Health Act, RSC 1985, c C-6
 - Ministry of Correctional Services Act, RRO 1990, Reg 778
- What do we know about the health status, risks and needs of incarcerated individuals?
- Public health implications of inmate health
- Moving towards an integrated health care system in Ontario

Adult Correctional Populations in Canada

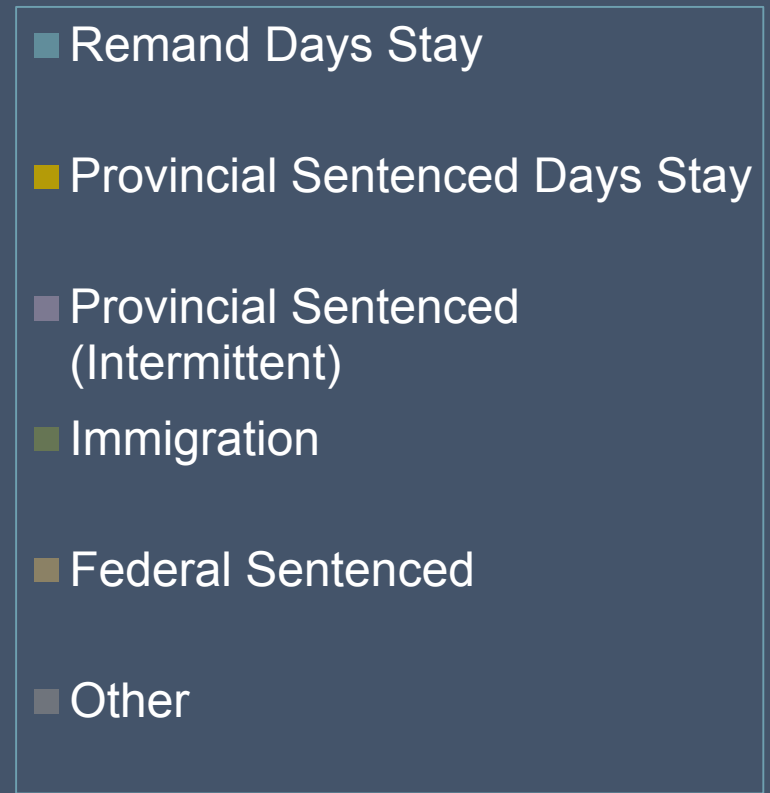
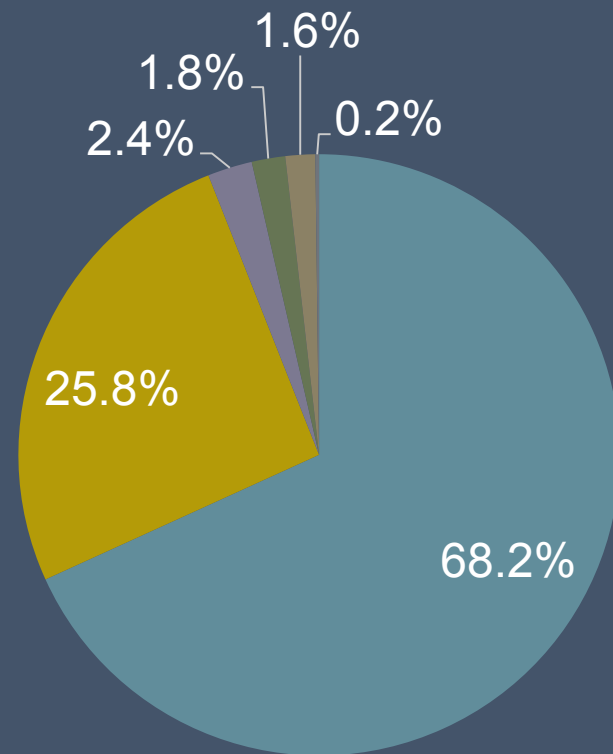
- Federal corrections (Correctional Service Canada)
 - sentences of incarceration of two years or more
- Provincial/Territorial corrections
 - probation
 - sentences of incarceration less than two years
 - holds inmates on remand and immigration detention
- 2016/17: ~40,000 adults in custody

Adult Correctional Population in Canada



Ontario Provincial Corrections

Population Distribution based on Total Average Institutional Count FY 2016/17



Legal Regulations for Health Care in Prisons

- Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners
 - 1990, United Nations General Assembly
- Canada Health Act
 - 1985, excludes **federal** correctional inmates
- Ministry of Correctional Services Act
 - 1990, duty of superintendent to manage health of inmates



Image from Penal Reform International



Image from Canadiem

Health Care in Ontario Corrections



Image from Government of Canada



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE



MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY & CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Health Status of Correctional Populations



Image from Pew Charitable Trusts



Image from Pedagogy Education



Image from Justice Not Jails



Image from Denver Post

Health Risks of Correctional Populations

- Correctional environments contribute to poor inmate health
- Risky behaviours of inmates contribute to transmission of disease
 - Injection drug use (including needle-sharing)
 - Unprotected sex
- Correctional populations are at a heightened risk of death both inside and outside of institutions

An Opportunity for Health Care



Medical Room, Monteith Correctional Complex

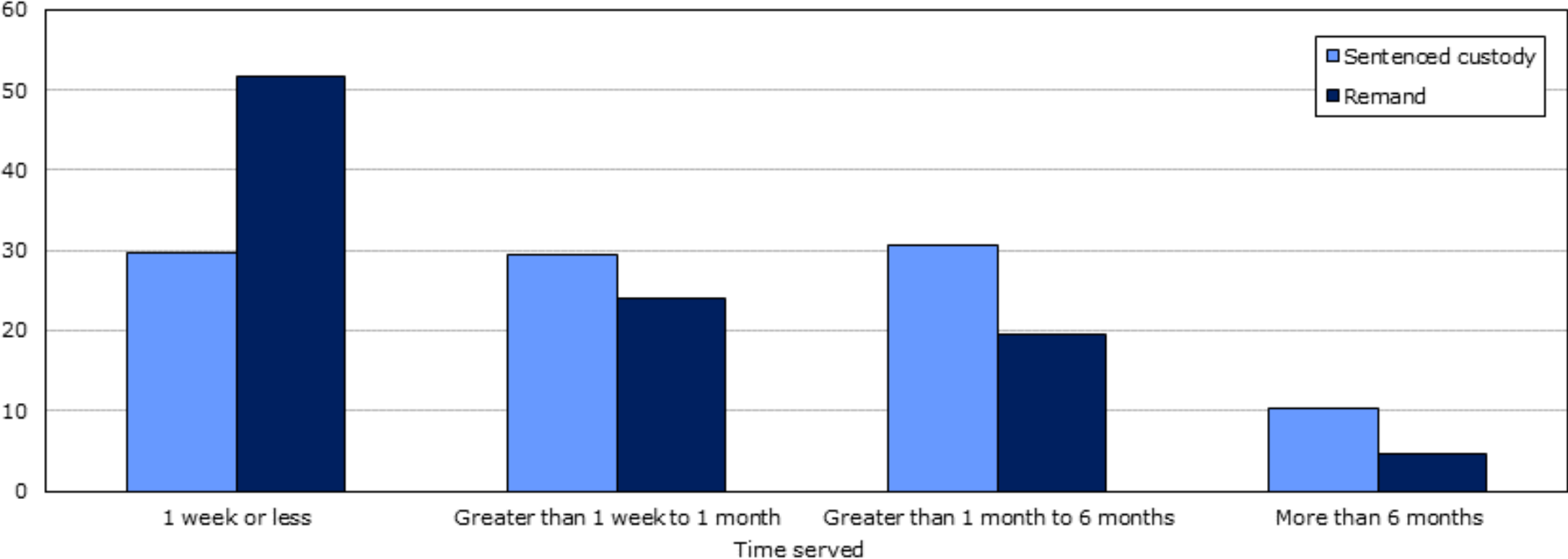


Dentist Office, Ontario Correctional Institute

Continuum of Care

Chart 3
Releases from adult provincial/territorial custody, by time served, 2016/2017

percent of releases¹



1. Excludes unknown length of stay.

Note: Excludes Alberta and British Columbia due to the unavailability of data.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Adult Correctional Services Survey, Integrated Correctional Services Survey and Canadian Correctional Services Survey, 2016/2017.

IROC Recommendations



Infirmery, Maplehurst Correctional Complex



Corrections in Ontario:
Directions for Reform
*September 2017*₁₁

Prison Health as Public Health in Ontario



Healthcare Area, Vanier Centre for Women



“It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.”

Nelson Mandela

For more information please contact us at iroc@ontario.ca