

ADULT RECIDIVISM IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY: PRISONERS

FACT SHEET

Prisoners Returning to Prison

- Of the 717 prisoners released in the Northern Territory during 2001-02, 40% (or 288) returned to prison compared to 37% nationally.
- The return rate for Indigenous prisoners was 45%, three times the return rate of 15% for non-Indigenous prisoners.
- The return rate for male prisoners was 42%, more than double the return rate of 17% for females.
- Indigenous prisoners aged between 25-34 years had the highest return rate at 51%.
- Prisoners with prior imprisonment returned at higher rates than those with no prior imprisonment at time of release. No priors 26%, one prior 49% and two or more priors 61%.
- Prisoners who served a term of imprisonment between 6 to 12 months had the highest return rate of 52%. Less than 6 months had a rate of 37% and 12 to 48 months, 48%.
- Prisoners released after serving a sentence for assault had the highest rate of return of all offence categories at 51%. They also had the highest rate of return for the same offence at 31%.
- Two thirds of recidivists returned to prison within 12 months of release. This is consistent for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous recidivists.

PRISONERS RETURNING TO CORRECTIVE SERVICES (PRISON OR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS)

- Of the 717 prisoners released in the Northern Territory during 2001-02, 43% (or 311) returned to corrective services, compared with 46% nationally.
- 48% of Indigenous prisoners returned to corrective services compared with 17% for non-Indigenous prisoners.
- The return rate for male prisoners was 45% compared with 21% for female prisoners.
- Indigenous prisoners aged between 25-34 years recorded the highest return rate at 55%.

DEFINITIONS

Prisoners are adults that have been sentenced by the courts to a term of incarceration. **Released** refers to prisoners released without further supervision by Northern Territory Correctional Services.

Community Corrections supervises the non-custodial court orders of parole, probation, home detention or community work orders.

DATA SOURCE AND SCOPE

Data for this Fact Sheet came from the Northern Territory Integrated Justice Information System.

It includes those prisoners released in 2001-02 and returning to correctional services within two years of release.

Certain foreign national prisoners, who are unlikely to return to the Northern Territory correctional system, were excluded from the analysis.

The Fact Sheet is based on the recidivism counting rules used by the Productivity Commission in the Report on Government Services.

Further details may be found at www.nt.gov.au/justice/ocp/graphpages/stats.shtml

Office of Crime Prevention

Phone: 8999 6274

Fax: 8999 6288

E-mail: crime.prevention@nt.gov.au

Website: www.crimeprevention.nt.gov.au