

# One Day Snapshot of Offenders

# 2010

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A One Day Snapshot of all offenders in Nova Scotia Correctional Facilities  
as of 23:59, Saturday, October 16th, 2010.

**Top Line  
Report**

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## Introduction

The One Day Snapshot of Offenders was designed to provide Correctional Services officials with an accurate account of the current characteristics of adult and youth offenders in Nova Scotia's correctional facilities<sup>1</sup>. This project involved an analysis of information about offenders at each of Nova Scotia's six correctional facilities who were on register as of 23:59 on October 16, 2010. Information was gathered from offenders' files, as well as from one-on-one interviews with offenders. This information was supplemented with risk assessment score data extracted from the Justice Enterprise Information Network (JEIN).

This is the third time a One Day Snapshot of Offenders has been conducted; the first was in 1996 as part of a national study by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS); the second was in 2006.

## Methodology

The One Day Snapshot was conducted on October 16, 2010. Representatives at each institution were sent copies of the survey instrument and instructed to complete one for each inmate on register as of 23:59 on that date. A detailed file review was conducted to gather offender personal information, criminal history, offense and sentencing details, as well as custody administration information, including security and accommodation and temporary absences (TAs). In addition, each offender was interviewed, with their permission, and asked to provide information about living arrangements, substance abuse history and past victimization. This information was further supplemented with risk assessment data based on Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) or Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) scores extracted from JEIN.

The paper surveys were collected and sent to Policy, Planning and Research for data entry and analysis. Once entered, the data were subject to thorough verification and cleaning procedures to identify and correct errors or missing information. This entailed manual checks, verification using JEIN, and in one instance, sending surveys back to an institution for completion.

## Limitations

Snapshot studies have an important role in criminal justice research. They can provide detailed and contextual information that is otherwise difficult to capture, and are particularly useful when used to supplement existing information, to identify anomalies, or to design longitudinal research.

Studies of this kind do have limitations that are important to note. By definition, snapshot studies capture only one particular point in time; results from such surveys cannot be generalized to other populations or to other time periods. However, substantial changes between surveys can *suggest* certain changes in the offender population that can be confirmed by other information or further study.

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<sup>1</sup> Analyses of adults vs. youth offenders were conducted on the basis of the correctional facility at which offenders were on register. Offenders on register at the Nova Scotia Youth Facility were considered youth while those on register at adult facilities were considered adults.

Caution should also be used when comparing the results of the survey with other data sources (e.g. CCJS statistics) which are annual or aggregate in nature. For example, sentence length figures from a snapshot taken in October will differ from annual figures, as shorter sentences will be underrepresented in the snapshot data because a large proportion of them will have already expired, while the longer sentences will be overrepresented for the opposite reason.

It should also be noted that the results of this study depended to a significant extent on voluntary cooperation from offenders in the interview component to provide honest answers to questions that could not be verified otherwise. Unfortunately, a large number of offenders refused to participate. This was especially an issue at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility, where approximately half of offenders chose not to participate. As a result, offenders from that facility are underrepresented in the interview component and results in Sections 3 and 4 should be interpreted cautiously.

Sample sizes are included in all tables to provide an indication of the completeness of the data in each section.

## Section One: Overview and Demographics

Based on the One Day Snapshot survey, as of 23:59 on Saturday, October 16, 2010, there were 543 offenders on register in Nova Scotia correctional facilities (Table 1). More than six in ten (62%) were on register at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility (CNSCF). The vast majority of both adults (94%) and youth (91%) were males. Of the 34 female offenders, 30 (88%) were on register at the CNSCF, and the remaining 4 (12%) were on register at the Nova Scotia Youth Facility.

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility	335	62%
Cape Breton (Adult)	85	16%
Nova Scotia Youth Facility	44	8%
Southwest Nova Scotia Correctional Facility	35	6%
Cumberland	24	4%
Antigonish	20	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Age

The average age of offenders overall was 31.9 years, with a median<sup>2</sup> age of 30 years; this was almost identical for male (31.9 years) and female (31.3 years) offenders. The average age of adult offenders was 33.2 years, and the average age of young offenders was 16.7 years.

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<sup>2</sup> The median represents the midpoint or the point at which half of the data falls above and half below (e.g., a median age of 30 years old means half of offenders were younger than 30 and half were older).

As Table 2 shows, there was a slightly larger proportion of offenders under 25 years of age, and the proportions in each age group declines steadily as age increases.

There was a relatively small proportion (3%) over 55 years of age.

Compared to the population of Nova Scotia as a whole, the adult offender population is considerably younger<sup>4</sup>. For example, 25% of Nova Scotians are between the ages of 18 and 34 years, compared to 60% of the adult offender population. Conversely, 35% of Nova Scotians are 55 years of age or older, compared with just 4% of the adult offender population.

<b>Table 2: Age groups</b>		
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 18 Years <sup>3</sup>	33	6%
18 - 25 Years	140	26%
25 - 34 Years	168	31%
35 - 44 Years	121	22%
45 - 54 Years	62	11%
Over 55 Years	19	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Ethnic Origin**

Nearly three-quarters (74%) of the adult offender population for whom information was available were Caucasian, while 15% were African-Nova Scotian, 7% were Aboriginal, and 4% were of “other” ethnic origin (Table 3). Caucasians made up 61% of youth offenders, while African-Nova Scotian and Aboriginal offenders represented 18% of the youth population each.

<b>Table 3: Ethnic origin</b>				
	<b>Adults</b>		<b>Youth</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	369	74%	27	61%
African-Nova Scotian	75	15%	8	18%
Aboriginal	33	7%	8	18%
Other	21	4%	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

According to the 2006 Census, African Nova Scotians comprise about 2% of the provincial population and those who identify as Aboriginal comprised nearly 3% of the provincial population.

English was the primary language spoken by almost all offenders (98%), with French, Mi'kmaq and other languages spoken as a primary language or in addition to English by the remaining offenders.

<sup>3</sup> Analyses of adults vs. youth offenders were conducted on the basis of the correctional facility at which offenders were on register. While 44 youth were on register at the Nova Scotia Youth Facility, 11 of these youth were older than 17.

<sup>4</sup> Nova Scotia figures based on percentage of the population 18 years and older in the 2006 Census

## Marital Status

Almost two-thirds (64%) of adult offenders were single at the time of admission (Table 4). Just over one-fifth (22%) were in common law relationships, while 5% were married. Another 9% of adult offenders were separated or divorced. All youth offenders were single at the time of admission.

	Adults		Youth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Single (never married)	319	64%	44	100%
Common law	108	22%	0	0%
Married	27	5%	0	0%
Separated	24	5%	0	0%
Divorced	19	4%	0	0%
Widowed	1	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

Interestingly, and perhaps at least in part a reflection of their younger age, the adult offender population has approximately double the proportion of single, never-married individuals (64%) than the province as a whole (32% in the 2006 Census).

## Education and Employment

More than six in ten adult offenders (62%) had less than a high school education, while just 7% had graduated from a post-secondary program (Table 5). In comparison, 23% of the Nova Scotia population have less than a high school education and more than one-half (55%) have completed some form of post secondary education (2006 Census).

Not surprisingly due to their age, almost all youth offenders (95%) had less than a high school education.

	Adults		Youth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than High School	308	62%	42	95%
High School Graduate	152	31%	2	5%
Post Secondary Graduate	33	7%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

More than four in ten adult offenders (43%) were unemployed at the time of admission, and roughly the same number were employed either full-time (28 %) or part time (14%) (Table 6). More than half of youth offenders (55%) were considered unemployed, while nearly three in ten (29%) were students, and another 13% had part-time employment at the time of admission. Comparatively speaking, the unemployment rate in Nova Scotia was 9% at the time of the 2006 Census.

<b>Table 6: Employment status</b>				
	<b>Adults</b>		<b>Youth</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Unemployed	198	43%	21	55%
On Social Assistance	32	7%	0	0%
Part-time	63	14%	5	13%
Full-Time	128	28%	1	3%
Student (not employed)	15	3%	11	29%
Retired	6	1%	0	0%
Not employable	22	5%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Section Two: Current Custody Term

### Legal Hold Status

As Table 7 shows, on snapshot day, more than one-third (36%) of adult offenders were being held on pure remand, while slightly less than one-third (32%) were serving straight time, and 17% were serving intermittent sentences. The proportions were somewhat different for youth offenders, with more than half (57%) serving straight time, and 27% being held on pure remand.

<b>Table 7: Legal hold status</b>				
	<b>Adults</b>		<b>Youth</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Pure remand	178	36%	12	27%
Pure provincial sentence - straight time	162	32%	25	57%
Pure provincial sentence - intermittent sentence	83	17%	0	0%
Provincial sentence and remand status	27	5%	4	9%
Federal parole or statutory release suspension	17	3%	0	0%
Other (e.g., immigration, federal for court, etc)	13	3%	0	0%
Commencing a federal sentence - still in 15-day waiting period prior to transfer	8	2%	0	0%
Provincial sentence-revocation/suspension of conditional sentence order	7	1%	0	0%
Serving federal sentence under an Exchange of Services Agreement (ESA)	3	1%	3	7%
Provincial parole suspension	1	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Offense Information

The OSD collected information on the total number of offenses for the current custody term, as well as the five most serious offences (MSOs)<sup>5</sup> for each offender. Results showed that the average number of charges per inmate was 6.3, while the median was 4.0 charges. Among adult offenders, the average was 6.2 charges, while the median was 4.0 charges. For youth, the average was slightly higher at 7.5 charges per offender, with a median of 4.5 charges.

Approximately one-third of adult offenders (34%), and nearly four in ten youth offenders (39%) had MSOs that were violent in nature (Table 8). Property offences were the next most common MSOs for both adults and youth, followed by Administration of Justice and Other Provincial/Federal Statutes.

	Adult		Youth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Violent	168	34%	17	39%
Property	113	23%	16	36%
Admin. of Justice	83	17%	6	14%
Other Prov. /Fed. Statutes	50	10%	5	11%
CC Traffic/Impaired	39	8%	.0	0%
Drugs	33	7%	.0	0%
Other Criminal Code	13	3%	.0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Sentence Length

For those adult offenders who had been sentenced on or before the survey date, the average aggregate sentence was just under 9 months (265 days), and the median was approximately four months (121 days) (Table 9).

Youth custody and supervision sentences are comprised of custody and community portions. The average custody portion of youth sentences was shorter than the average adult custody sentence (219 vs. 265 days), while the median length was longer at 140 days. The community portion of youth sentences averaged 127 days, with a median of 42 days. There was one adult serving a youth sentence, with an aggregate community sentence length of 92 days.

	Total Aggregate Sentence (Days)		Aggregate Community Sentence (days)	
	Average	Median	Average	Median
Adults	265	121	92	92
Youth	219	140	127	42

<sup>5</sup> Those completing the survey were asked to list the five most serious offences (MSOs) for offenders' current custody terms. To facilitate this, a listing of offences and their serious index scores were appended to the survey instrument. This listing was based upon that used by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) to determine the most serious offence in a grouping of charges.

### Location of Offenders on Survey Date

At the time of the survey, the whereabouts of 477 adult offenders and all youth offenders was recorded<sup>6</sup>. Of the adult offenders, almost all (98%) were in the facility, while just 9 (2%) were on register but not physically in the facility. Of these, five offenders were unlawfully at large, two were on a temporary absence (TA), one was serving an intermittent sentence and one was at a hospital receiving medical treatment.

Of the 44 youth, 40 (91%) were in the facility at the time of the survey; the other four offenders were on temporary absence.

### Security and Accommodation

The survey instrument included a number of specific security concerns and Correctional Services staff completing the surveys were asked indicate which of the concerns, if any, applied to offenders. As shown in Table 10, of the 447 adults for whom information was collected, no concerns were expressed for 283 (63%). For the remaining 164 adult offenders, a total of 283 concerns were expressed; the top three concerns were institutional discipline, protective custody, and assaultive/violent behaviour.

Of the 43 youth offenders for whom information was collected, no concerns were expressed for 27 (63%). For the remaining 16 youth offenders, a total of 33 concerns were expressed; the top three concerns were being assaultive/violent, institutional discipline, and substance abuse.

<b>Table 10: Supervision/security concerns</b>				
	<b>Adults</b>		<b>Youth</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No concerns	283	63%	27	63%
Institutional disciplinary report	89	20%	8	19%
Protective custody	71	16%	0	0%
Assaultive or violent	42	9%	9	21%
Threat to other offenders or staff	20	4%	7	16%
Affiliation with organized crime, gang, terrorists	12	3%	0	0%
Substance abuse	11	2%	8	19%
Possession of contraband	10	2%	0	0%
Mental illness	8	2%	0	0%
Smuggling	7	2%	0	0%
Escape risk	4	1%	0	0%
Unauthorized absences	3	1%	0	0%
Suicide risk	3	1%	1	2%
Medical segregation	2	0%	0	0%
Physical disability	1	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>6</sup> Information for the remaining 22 adult offenders was not provided during data collection.

Accommodation data was collected for 454 adult and 44 youth offenders (Table 11). Slightly more than six in ten adult offenders (61%) for whom information is available were housed in single cells; the remainder were fairly evenly split between double cells (19%) and shared accommodation (20%). The large majority of double bunked offenders (92%) were at the CNSCF, while the remaining 8% were at the Antigonish Correctional Facility.

Of the 90 offenders in shared accommodation, one-third (33%) were in dormitories with fewer than five offenders; nearly another one-third (30%) were in dormitories with between five and ten offenders; the remainder (37%) were in dormitories with 11 offenders. All youth offenders were in single cells.

<b>Table 11: Offenders' accommodation</b>				
	<b>Adults</b>		<b>Youth</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Alone in a single cell	277	61%	44	100%
Double-bunked	87	19%	-	
Shared accommodation	90	20%	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

Information on the location of offenders at the time of the survey was collected for 411 adults and 41 youth. Of these, the large majority of the offender population was in the general remand/sentenced population, while 5% of adults and 10% of youth offenders were in segregation.

### **Offender Risk/Needs Profile**

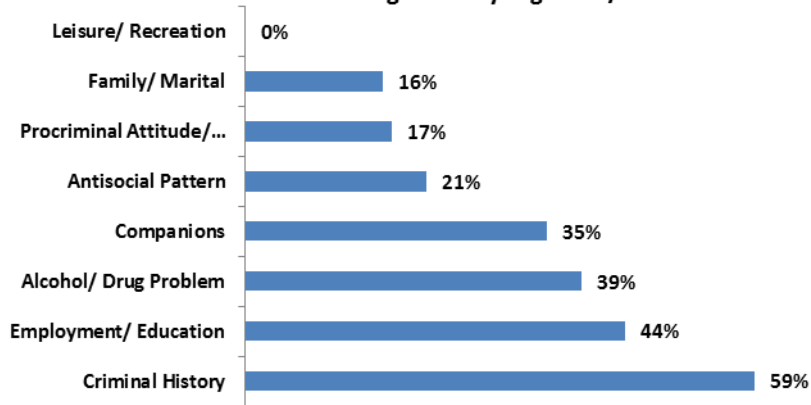
The LS/CMI and YLS/CMI are risk assessment tools that evaluate risk across a number of dimensions, and are completed in order to help Correctional Services staff develop case management plans for individual offenders. As part of this One Day Snapshot, scores from the LS/CMI and YLS/CMI were extracted from JEIN to provide an overall profile of the custodial population on the survey date. Assessments had been completed for 42 youth and 301 adult offenders.

The LS/CMI assesses adult offenders on eight dimensions. For each dimension, adults are scored on a five point scale from Very Low to Very High Risk based on the presence or absence of a number of indicators. The aggregate of these scores is then calculated to provide an overall risk/needs score, which is combined with other information to determine such things as the types of programming and the level of supervision that may be required during the custody term.

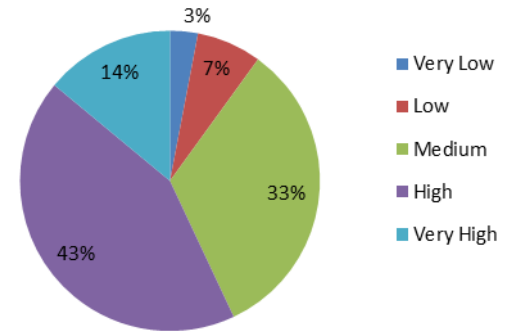
As Figure 1 demonstrates, there is considerable variation in the proportion of offenders assessed as High or Very High Risk on each dimension. While there were no adult offenders classified as High or Very High Risk on the leisure/recreation dimension, nearly six in ten (59%) were classified as High or Very High Risk on the criminal history dimension.

Overall, nearly six in ten (57%) adult offenders were classified as either High or Very High Risk (Figure 2). This designation helps inform a number of case management level decisions, including institutional placement and subsequent program placement.

**Figure 1: Adult Level of Service/Case Management Inventory  
High or Very High Risk/Need**



**Figure 2: Adult - Overall Risk/Needs Score**

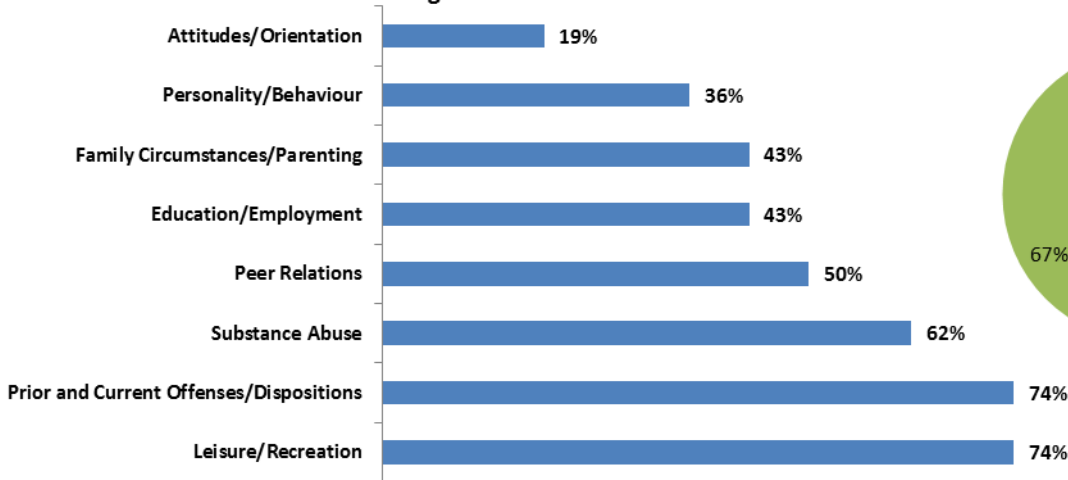


Youth offenders are also assessed across eight dimensions, though the dimensions and scoring vary from those used for adults; youth are scored as Low, Moderate or High Risk based on the presence or absence of a number of indicators within each dimension. The aggregate of these scores is then calculated to provide an overall risk/needs score.

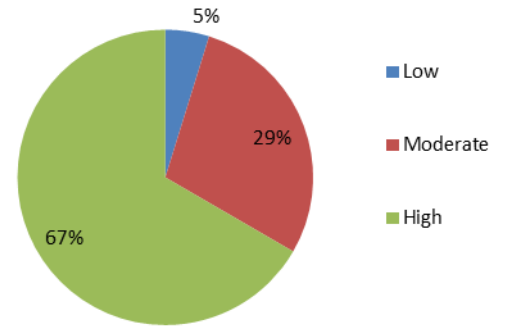
As Figure 3 demonstrates, there is variation in the proportion of youth offenders assessed as High Risk on each dimension. Results show that nearly three-quarters of youth were High Risk with respect to prior or current offences (74%), and on the leisure and recreation dimension (74%), which assesses participation in organized activities, making good use of time, and having personal interests. Nearly two-thirds (62%) were rated as High Risk on the substance abuse dimension, while fully half (50%) were classified as High Risk with respect to peer relations.

Overall, fully two-thirds (67%) of youth offenders were classified as High Risk (Figure 4). As with adult offenders, this designation is considered together with other information to assign a general risk/need level, which in turn is used to determine such things as the types of programming and the level of supervision a young person may require during the custody term.

**Figure 3: Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory High Risk**



**Figure 4: Youth - Overall Risk Assessment**



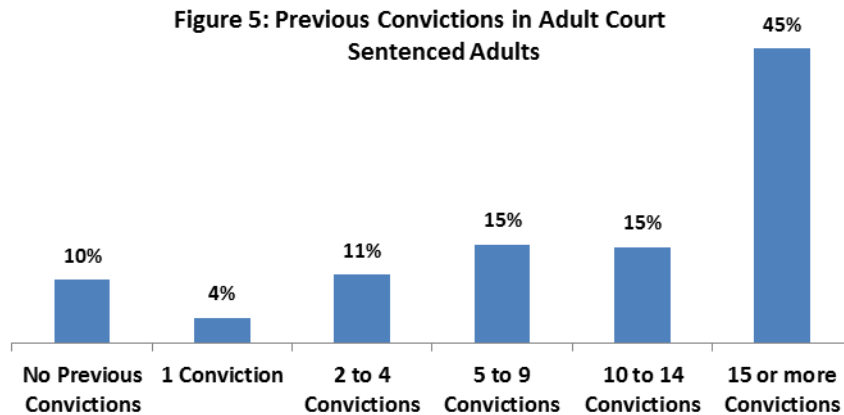
## Section Three: Offender History

### Previous Convictions

Information on previous convictions was collected for offenders who were serving an aggregate sentence of more than 30 days.

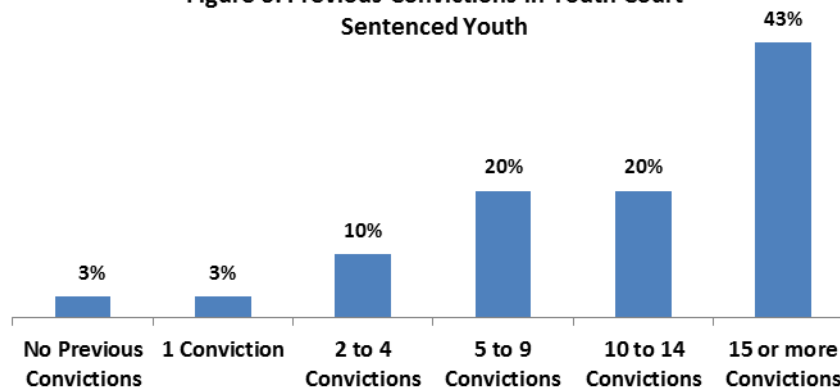
Of the 255 adult offenders about whom information was collected, six in ten (60%) had 10 or more previous adult convictions (Figure 5). One in ten (10%) had no previous adult convictions.

**Figure 5: Previous Convictions in Adult Court Sentenced Adults**



Of the 30 youth offenders from whom information was collected, nearly two-thirds (63%) had ten or more previous convictions in youth court (Figure 6). In fact, just one youth offender (3%) in the sample had no previous convictions.

**Figure 6: Previous Convictions in Youth Court Sentenced Youth**



### Living Arrangements

Offenders were asked to provide basic details regarding their living arrangements prior to and following custody, and to indicate whether they were the main caregiver for family members.

The large majority of adult and youth offenders indicated having a permanent address at the time of incarceration (Table 12).

	Adults		Youth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Yes</b>	287	88%	36	82%
<b>No</b>	40	12%	8	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the 287 adult offenders who indicated having a permanent address, 256 provided additional details with respect to living arrangements. Of these 34% were living with a spouse/partner/boyfriend/girlfriend, while 30% were living alone, 20% were living with parents or guardians, 9% were living with other relatives, and the remaining 6% were living with non-relatives.

Of the 36 youth offenders who indicated having a permanent address, 35 provided additional details with respect to living arrangements. Of these, more than three-quarters (77%) were living with their parents or guardians, while another 14% were living with other relatives, 6% with non-relatives, and 3% with a spouse/partner/boyfriend/girlfriend.

	Adults		Youth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Yes</b>	261	79%	35	80%
<b>No</b>	39	12%	4	9%
<b>Unknown</b>	29	9%	5	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

Three hundred and twenty-nine (329) adult and 44 youth offenders provided information about living arrangements following custody; of these, nearly eight in ten (79%) indicated that they would have a permanent address following custody (Table 13).

Two hundred and nineteen (219) adult offenders provided additional information with respect to living arrangements following custody. Nearly one-third (32%) indicated that they would live alone following custody, and an equal proportion (32%) indicated that they would live with a spouse/partner/boyfriend/girlfriend. Another 23% said that they would be living with parents, while 9% said they would be living with relatives and 5% with other non-relatives.

Of the 32 youth who provided information on living arrangements following custody, three-quarters (75%) indicated that they would be living with parents or guardians following custody, while another 13% were going to live with other relatives. Six percent said they would be living with non-relatives, one offender (3%) indicated that he/she would be living with either a spouse/partner/boyfriend/girlfriend and another indicated he/she would be living alone.

Very little information was gathered with respect to offenders being primary caregivers. Of 83 adult offenders who provided information, 72 (87%) indicated being the main caregiver for child(ren) under 18 years of age (two of whom indicated that they shared joint custody of the children), 9 (11%) for an aging parent, and 4 (5%) for other individuals, including a disabled spouse, children not in their custody and an expected baby<sup>7</sup>.

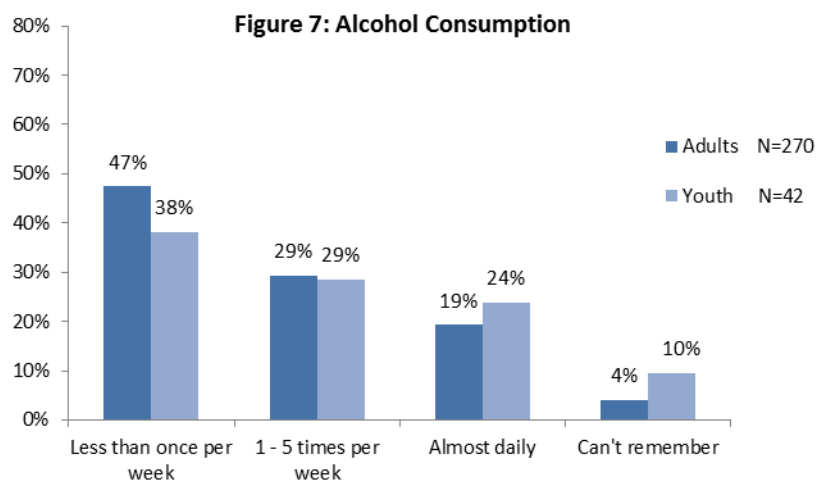
### Alcohol, Drugs and Gambling

The One Day Snapshot sought to explore the issue of alcohol and drug use and gambling to help inform program and service delivery. Offenders were asked about their history with each, the extent, if any, to which they felt that each contributed to the crimes for which they were incarcerated, and any treatment they have taken for dependency on each.

#### Alcohol

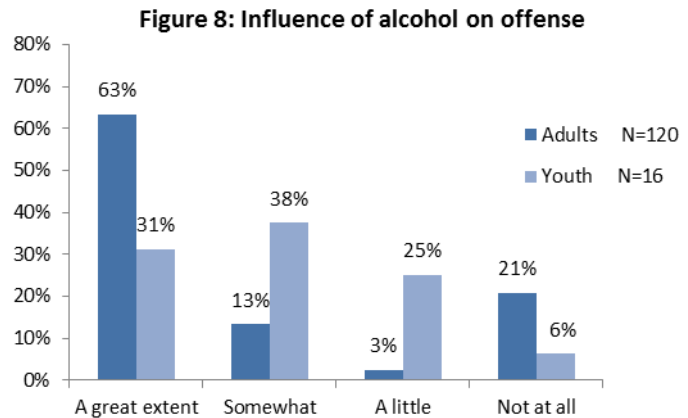
318 adults and 43 youth offenders provided information about their alcohol consumption. Of these, 92% of adults and 95% of youth admitted to having consumed alcohol; the average age at first consumption was 14 years for adults, and 12 years for youth.

Offenders who acknowledged having consumed alcohol were asked to estimate the frequency with which they drank alcohol in the 12 months prior to their current incarceration (Figure 7). Of the offenders that provided information, almost half of adults (47%) and nearly four in ten youth offenders (38%) reported consuming alcohol less than once per week on average. However, almost one in five adults (19%) and nearly one-quarter of youth (24%) reported drinking alcohol almost every day in the year preceding their incarceration.



<sup>7</sup> Two offenders indicated that they were the primary caregiver for both children and an aging parent.

Offenders were further asked if they were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the offense(s) for which they were currently incarcerated, and the extent to which they believe that alcohol was a contributing factor to the commission of the offense(s) (Figure 8). Nearly two-thirds of adult offenders (63%) felt that alcohol influenced them to a great extent, while another one-fifth (21%) reported that alcohol did not influence them at all. By contrast, less than one-third of youth (31%) felt that alcohol influenced their offences to a great extent.

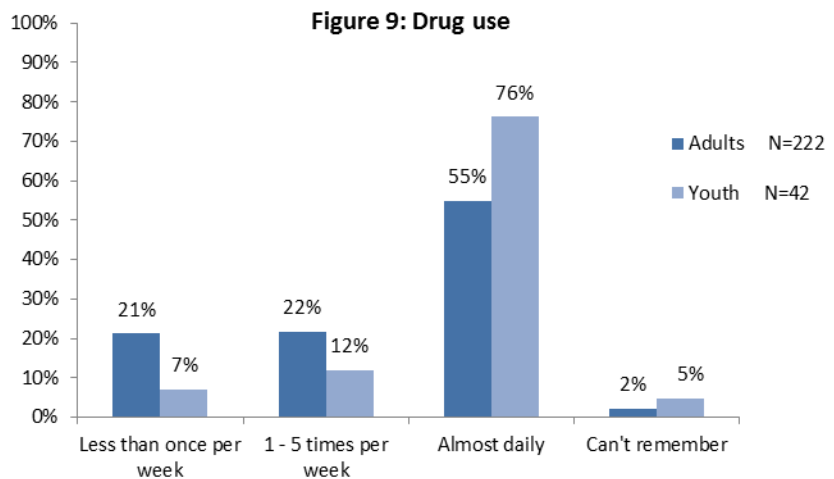


Offenders were also asked if they had ever sought, received or been ordered to receive treatment for alcohol addiction. Of the 291 adults and 42 youth offenders that provided information, nearly half (49%) of adults and one in four youth (40%) acknowledged having sought, received or been ordered to receive such treatment.

### Drugs

322 adults and 44 youth offenders provided information about their drug use. 78% of adults and 95% of youth admitted to having consumed drugs; the average age at first use was 15 years for adults, and 12 years for youth.

Offenders who acknowledged using drugs were asked to estimate the frequency with which they used in the 12 months prior to their current incarceration (Figure 9). Of the offenders that provided information, over half of adults (55%) and more than three-quarters of youth offenders (76%) reported using drugs daily, while just one in five adults (21%) and fewer than one in ten youth (7%) reported using less than once per week in the year preceding their incarceration.



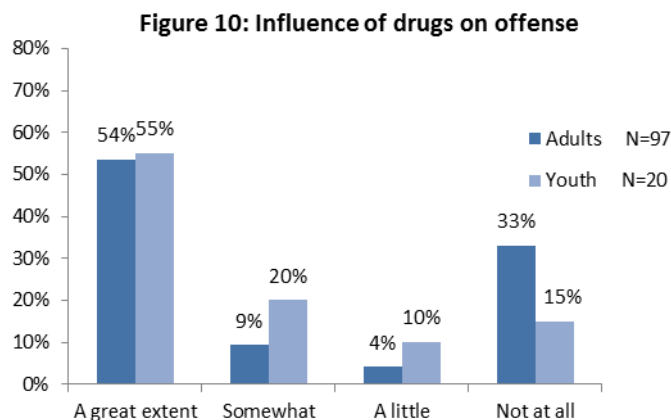
Offenders were asked to list the types of drugs they had used in the previous 12 months. A wide range of prescription and non-prescription substances were reported; the most frequently mentioned were marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, MDMA (ecstasy), and various painkillers.



Offenders were further asked if they were under the influence of drugs at the time of the offense(s) for which they were currently incarcerated, and the extent to which they believe that drugs were a contributing factor to the commission of the offense(s). Of the 244 adults and 42 youth offenders that provided information, 40% of adults and 48% of youth indicated being under the influence of drugs at the time of their offense.

Further, of the 97 adults and 20 youth that provided a response, more than half felt that drugs influenced the commission of their offense(s) to a great extent (Figure 10). Fully one-third of adults (33%) reported that drug use did not at all influence the commission of the offense(s), compared to 15% of youth.

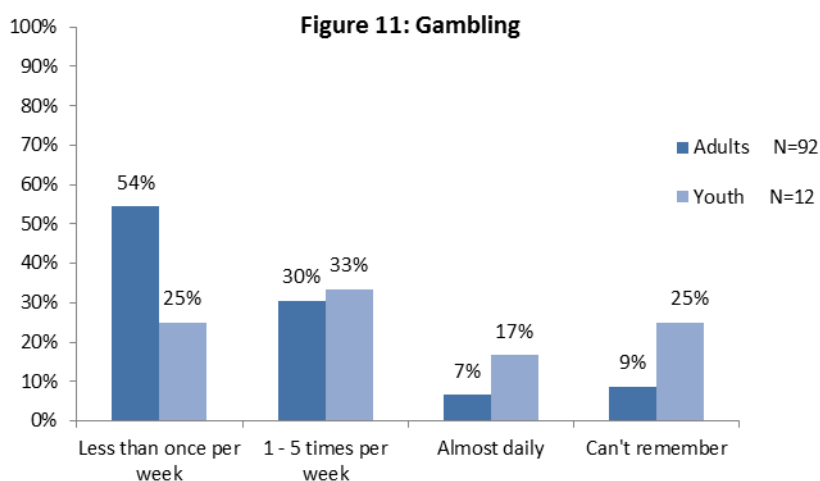
Offenders were also asked if they had ever sought, received or been ordered to receive treatment for drug addiction. Of the 244 adults and 42 youth offenders that provided information, more than half (52%) of adults and fully two-thirds of youth (67%) acknowledged having sought, received or been ordered to receive such treatment.



### Gambling

366 offenders provided information about their gambling habits, including 322 adults and 44 youth. Thirty percent of adults and 30% of youth admitted to having gambled; the average age when the offenders first gambled was 17 years for adults, and 11 years for youth.

Offenders were asked to estimate the frequency with which they gambled in the 12 months prior to their current incarceration (Figure 11). Of the 92 adults and 12 youth offenders that provided information, over half of adults (54%) and one-quarter of youth offenders (25%) reported gambling less than once per week, while fewer than one in ten adults (7%) and fewer than one in six youth (17%) reported gambling daily.



Offenders were asked if they had done something illegal in order to bet or cover gambling losses in the 12 months prior to their current incarceration. Just eight adults (8%) and four youth (33%) admitted to this occurring.

## Section Four: Past Victimization

Offenders were asked to discuss the nature and extent of any family violence they may have experienced in their lifetime. A total of 362 offenders provided responses, including 319 adults and 43 youth; of these, 182 (50%) reported being victims of one or more types of family violence (Table 14). On average, offenders reported having experienced six of the listed types of violence.

	Adult		Youth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Pushed, grabbed or shoved	134	42%	16	37%
Threatened to hit with fist or something else	124	39%	15	35%
Thrown object at	121	38%	12	28%
Slapped	120	38%	12	28%
Kicked, bitten, or hit with fist	105	33%	13	30%
Hit with something other than fist?	101	32%	14	33%
Beaten	98	31%	10	23%
Choked	53	17%	10	23%
Used or threatened use of a gun or knife	33	10%	8	19%
Forced into unwanted sexual activity by threatening, holding down or harming in some way	24	8%	1	2%
None of the Above	155	49%	25	58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>

Further, the large majority of offenders who indicated having experienced at least one of the listed forms of family violence also indicated having experienced family violence on more than one occasion (Table 15). Seven in ten adults (71%) and over half of youth offenders (53%) who provided information and who had experienced family violence more than once reported having experienced it on more than ten occasions.

	Adult		Youth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
More than 10 times	101	71%	9	53%
2 to 10 times	27	19%	5	29%
Don't remember	14	10%	3	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>100%</b>

Offenders were asked if they had ever experienced physical or sexual violence perpetrated by an intimate partner (current or ex-spouse, current or ex common-law partner, current or ex boyfriend/girlfriend), or if they had perpetrated such violence toward an intimate partner themselves. Results showed that more than one-quarter of adult offenders (27%) reported having experienced violence from an intimate partner, while one in six (16%) admitted to being violent toward an intimate partner. These proportions were much lower for youth offenders. Overall, a greater proportion of female offenders (adults and youth) experienced violence from an intimate partner; of the 26 females who provided information, half (50%) had experienced such violence, as compared to 23% of males who responded. Both male and female offenders were less likely to indicate that they had been perpetrators of intimate partner violence; 15% of both males and females who provided responses indicated that had been violent toward an intimate partner.

Offenders were asked if they had ever sought, received or been ordered to receive treatment for being physically or sexually violent toward an intimate partner. Of the 52 adults and 4 youth offenders that provided information, more than half (56%) of adults reported having sought, received or been ordered to receive such treatment.

Offenders were also asked if they had ever sought, received or been ordered to receive treatment related to their mental health. Of the 318 adults and 44 youth offenders that provided information, more than four in ten adults (45%) and more than three quarters of youth (80%) acknowledged having sought, received or been ordered to receive this type of treatment.

## **Conclusion**

The One Day Snapshot provided a unique opportunity for the Department of Justice to gather a detailed profile of all offenders on register on the survey date. A survey of this type is complex, relying on multiple stakeholders, coordinated logistics, and importantly, on cooperation from the offenders themselves. Despite the noted limitations, specifically the refusal by a number of offenders to participate in the interview component, the One Day Snapshot was able to capture a great deal of information about the custodial population in Nova Scotia's correctional facilities.

Having a rich understanding of the range of demographics and custody term details of the offender population, together with an overview of their criminal and personal histories, will help enable government to more effectively respond to the programming and support needs of offenders in custody. Further, such information will also help support crime prevention efforts aimed at identifying factors that are common to those individuals who end up incarcerated, and at directing resources toward proactively addressing these factors, ultimately contributing to safer communities for all Nova Scotians.