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PRESS RELEASE

SPS and YRSG Annual Statistics Release for 2023

In 2023, the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) continued to ensure a secure prison environment for the safe custody of offenders. Working closely with Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG), community partners and volunteers, including desistors, SPS also focused on the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, to keep recidivism low and thereby contribute to a safer Singapore.

Recidivism Remained Low

2. The two-year recidivism rate for the 2021 release cohort is 22% (see Figure 1a). This rate remains amongst the lowest internationally (see Figure 1b), though it has increased by 1.6 percentage points from the previous year. This is largely due to the increase in the recidivism rate of repeat drug abusers.

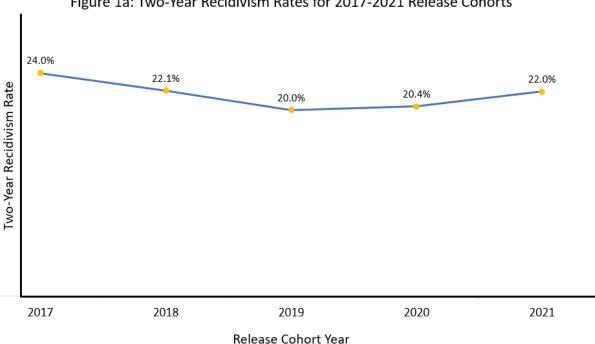


Figure 1a: Two-Year Recidivism Rates for 2017-2021 Release Cohorts

¹ Recidivism rate is defined as the percentage of local offenders under the custody of the Singapore Prison Service, who were subsequently detained or sentenced to imprisonment or day reporting order within two years of release into the community.

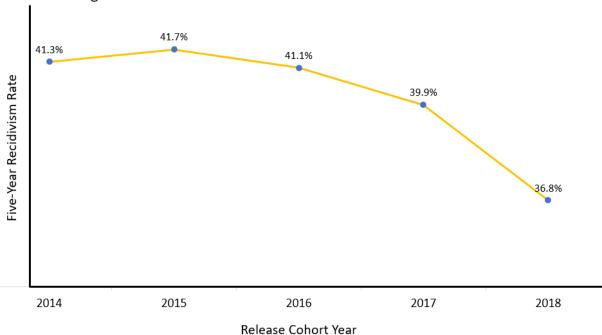


Figure 1b: International Comparison of Two-Year Recidivism Rate

Country/Jurisdiction	Year of Release Cohort	Two-Year Recidivism Rate
Japan	2021	14.1%
Singapore	2021	22.0%
Hong Kong	2020	23.3%
Denmark	2019	31.4%
New Zealand	2020	35.2%
Ireland	2020	41.0%
Australia	2020	42.5%

3. The five-year recidivism rate is the lowest across past five-year release cohorts (see Figure 1c). It has been above or at about 40% but fell to 36.8% for the 2018 release cohort. This improvement in the longer term desistance of ex-offenders is likely due to the stronger pro-social support they are receiving when they are back in the community.

Figure 1c: Five-Year Recidivism Rates for 2014-2018 Release Cohorts





Enhancing Rehabilitation and Strengthening Community Corrections for Drug Abusers, to Reduce Drug Abuse Recidivism

- 4. Inmates with drug antecedents are about three times more likely to re-offend than those without.² It is therefore important to continue focusing our efforts on the rehabilitation and reintegration of drug abusers.
- 5. At the Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC), drug abusers undergo a range of rehabilitation programmes such as psychology-based correctional programmes that target their attitudes and beliefs towards drug abuse, family programmes, vocational and employability skills training, work programmes, and religious services. SPS will continue to review and enhance the treatment and rehabilitation approach for drug abusers, to better mitigate their risk of relapse.
- 6. The most difficult challenge in desisting from drugs arises when abusers complete their detention at the DRC and return to society, and there is no longer a structure and enforced discipline to their daily lives. Therefore, upon release, we make it mandatory for drug abusers to undergo community corrections. After their release from the DRC, they are emplaced on community-based programmes either at home, a work release centre, or a halfway house, and are subjected to electronic monitoring with curfew hours and mandatory urine-testing. To further deter drug relapse, drug abusers have to undergo mandatory urine and/or hair analysis and supervision by the Central Narcotics Bureau for up to five years after their release from the DRC or prison.
- 7. DRC releasees, especially those with multiple antecedents, face complex reintegration challenges. Having a strong network of support in the community is important for their successful reintegration. Over the years, SPS and YRSG have been working closely with other Government agencies, volunteers and community partners, employers, and families to strengthen the ecosystem of support for ex-offenders. SPS will continue to enhance the capabilities of our community partners as well as provide more support for abusers' families and involve them in the rehabilitation process.
- 8. SPS has also implemented the following initiatives to better monitor and assist supervisees, including drug abusers, who are undergoing community corrections:
 - Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) 2.0 provides SPS officers with remote real-time tracking of the whereabouts of supervisees, allowing for timely intervention when necessary.
 - Prison Automated Screening System (PASS) automates the urine procurement and screening process. It improves the detection of drug abuse and enhances the efficiency of the process.
 - Self-Help & Rehabilitation E-Application (SHARE) is a mobile application allowing supervisees to take greater ownership of their reintegration by giving them access to electronic rehabilitation resources, a centralised job database and reintegration progress tracking, amongst other features.
 - **Volunteer Case Officers (VCOs)** help coach and guide supervisees towards a more prosocial lifestyle, even after their supervision period ends, and provide an extended network

² Based on two-year recidivism.



- of support to the supervisees. As of 31 December 2023, there were 80 VCOs supporting 140 supervisees.
- **Desistor Network (DN)** is a network of like-minded community partners working together to help desistors stay crime-free. As of 31 December 2023, there were 74 member organisations on board.

Career Facilitation and Retention Support

9. YRSG prepares inmates and ex-offenders for their career through skills training, career placement and career retention. In 2023, more than 4,000 inmates were trained, with an average of 80 training hours per inmate. Prior to release or community programme emplacement, YRSG career specialists initiate career conversations to assess their interests and aspirations, evaluate job requirements and match them with suitable opportunities. Ex-offenders who secure jobs through YRSG will receive up to 12 months of career retention support from its career coaches, including regular engagements at their workplace to set behavioural goals and to monitor their progress at work. YRSG career coaches also work closely with employers and supervisors to understand and address the challenges ex-offenders face at work. The number of employers who support hiring of ex-offenders has increased from 6,265 in 2022 to 6,516 in 2023.

Conclusion

10. SPS and YRSG will continue to work with volunteers and community partners, employers, families, and other Government agencies to strengthen the eco-system of support in the community to tackle drug recidivism.



About the Singapore Prison Service (SPS)

As an agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs and a key member of the Home Team, SPS enforces the secure custody of inmates and rehabilitates them for a safer Singapore. SPS's team of *Captains of Lives* — comprising uniformed officers and civilian staff — works closely with inmates, their family, aftercare agencies, community partners and volunteers. The Captains of Lives inspire and steer inmates to take ownership of their rehabilitation and be responsible and contributing citizens.

SPS was awarded the Singapore Quality Award with Special Commendation in 2012 and 2019 – a recognition of its dedication to the secure custody and effective rehabilitation of inmates.

About Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG)

YRSG is a statutory board under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It was established on 1 April 1976 as the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) and rebranded as YRSG on 1 May 2020.

YRSG adopts a multi-faceted approach to prepare inmates and ex-offenders for reintegration into the national workforce, which includes initiatives to help them develop skills and long-term careers through partnerships with industry, as well as initiatives to garner community support and acceptance of ex-offenders.

YRSG works with more than 7,000 like-minded partners. Our collective efforts have contributed to the low and stable recidivism rate in Singapore.

YRSG will continue to advocate for ex-offenders, raise awareness of the challenges they face, and bring the private, public and people sectors together to help them.

For more information, refer to YRSG's website at http://www.yellowribbon.gov.sg.

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Singapore Prison Service Annual Statistics for 2023

Total Offender Population in Prisons and in the Community³

Offender Population	2021	2022	2023
Incare	8,160	7,660	8,009
Community Corrections	3,402	2,920	2,694
Total	11,562	10,580	10,703

Two-Year Recidivism Rates⁴

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2019	Release Cohort 2020	Release Cohort 2021
Overall	20.0%	20.4%	22.0%
Penal ⁵	19.1%	18.5%	19.7%
Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) ⁶	24.5%	26.1%	27.7%
With drug antecedents ⁷	27.4%	26.9%	29.2%
Without drug antecedents8	9.8%	9.4%	9.4%

³ The figures are as at 31st December of the respective years.

⁴ Two-year recidivism rate is defined as the percentage of local offenders under the custody of the Singapore Prison Service, who were subsequently detained or sentenced to imprisonment or day reporting order within two years of release into the community.

⁵ This refers to the recidivism rates for inmates in SPS's custody who have been sentenced to imprisonment by the Courts.

⁶ This refers to the recidivism rates for inmates in SPS's custody who have been admitted to the Drug Rehabilitation Centre to undergo treatment and rehabilitation.

⁷ This refers to the recidivism rates for inmates with at least one prior drug conviction (drug offences include trafficking, consumption, possession, others).

 $^{^8}$ This refers to the recidivism rates for inmates with no prior drug conviction (drug offences include trafficking, consumption, possession, others).



Five-Year Recidivism Rates⁹

Recidivism	Release Cohort 2016	Release Cohort 2017	Release Cohort 2018
Overall	41.1%	39.9%	36.8%
Penal ¹⁰	40.3%	38.8%	35.4%
Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) ¹¹	44.3%	45.2%	43.6%

Major Incidents¹²

Major Incidents	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023 (up to Dec 2023) ¹³
Escape Rate Per 10,000 Inmate Population	0	0	0
Assault Rate Per 10,000 Inmate Population ¹⁴	48.0	62.6	41.4

⁹ Five-year recidivism rate is defined as the percentage of local offenders under the custody of the Singapore Prison Service, who were subsequently detained or sentenced to imprisonment or day reporting order within five years of release into the community.

¹⁰ This refers to the recidivism rates for inmates in SPS's custody who have been sentenced to imprisonment by the Courts.

¹¹ This refers to the recidivism rates for inmates in SPS's custody who have been admitted to the Drug Rehabilitation Centre to undergo treatment and rehabilitation.

¹² Major incidents are measured per fiscal year (FY) as published in the annual Budget Book.

¹³ The actual figure as at the end of the fiscal year (FY) will be published in the 2024 statistics release.

¹⁴ This covers assault cases perpetrated by inmates who are charged under aggravated prison offences. Such cases would include any attack by inmates on prison officers, or assaults by inmates on fellow inmates in which serious injuries are sustained by the victim(s).



Convicted Penal Inmate Population¹⁵

Category		2021	2022	2023
Total C	Convicted Penal Population	5,945	5,038	4,545
Gender	Male	5,374	4,574	4,159
	Female	571	464	386
	19 & below	138	107	98
	20-29	1,015	872	820
	30-39	1,343	1,168	1,114
Age	40-49	1,298	1,064	965
Group ¹⁶	50-59	1,364	1,155	959
	60-64	478	370	322
	65-69	223	223	177
	70-74	65	55	70
	75 & Above	21	24	20
	No Education	92	64	62
	Primary	1,656	1,326	1,026
Education	Secondary	2,938	2,471	2,242
Level ¹⁷	Pre – U	251	265	291
	Vocational	650	575	546
	Tertiary and Above	358	337	378
	Crimes Against Person	702	726	735
	Property Crimes	639	579	481
	Commercial Crimes	343	336	450
Main	Drug Offences	3,682	2,867	2,299
Offence	Immigration Offences	24	41	26
Group ¹⁸	Crime Against Public Order	171	174	146
	Customs Offences	160	159	176
	Traffic Offences	88	65	105
	Other Offences ¹⁹	136	91	127

 $^{^{15}}$ Convicted penal inmate population refers to the number of sentenced inmates who were in SPS's custody on $31^{\rm st}$ December of the respective years.

 $^{^{16}}$ Refreshed age groups are based on recommendations on definition and classification of age from Department of Statistics.

¹⁷ Educational level as declared by inmates upon admission.

¹⁸ Inmates are grouped according to their aggravated (i.e., most serious) offence.

¹⁹ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration offences, National Service-related offences and telecommunication & computer-related offences.



Convicted Penal Admissions²⁰

Category		2021	2022	2023
Total C	Total Convicted Penal Admissions		5,965	5,759
Gender	Male	5,192	5,294	5,140
	Female	666	671	619
	19 & below	91	82	97
	20-29	1,419	1,420	1,496
	30-39	1,701	1,767	1,717
Admission	40-49	1,154	1,228	1,141
Age	50-59	964	939	849
Group ²¹	60-64	289	302	261
	65 -69	156	155	124
	70-74	59	54	60
	75 & Above	25	18	14
	No Education	84	55	65
	Primary	1,123	1,126	911
Education	Secondary	2,750	2,719	2,669
Level ²²	Pre – U	370	527	543
	Vocational	806	736	801
	Tertiary and Above	725	802	770
	Crimes Against Person	1,105	1,152	990
	Property Crimes	840	846	792
	Commercial Crimes	538	639	687
Main Offence Group ²³	Drug Offences	805	703	639
	Immigration Offences	205	262	250
	Crime Against Public Order	531	588	428
	Customs Offences	358	389	420
	Traffic Offences	819	984	1,034
	Other Offences ²⁴	657	402	519

²⁰ Convicted penal admission figures refer to the number of persons admitted to prison to serve an imprisonment sentence in the respective calendar years.

 $^{^{21}}$ Age as at admission. Refreshed age groups are based on recommendations on definition and classification of age from Department of Statistics.

²² Education level as declared by inmates upon admission.

²³ Inmates are grouped according to their aggravated (i.e., most serious) offence.

²⁴ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration offences, National Service-related offences and telecommunication & computer-related offences.



Remand Population²⁵

	Category	2021	2022	2023
Tota	al Remand Population	1,109	1,081	1,227
Gender	Male	1,021	1,006	1,130
	Female	88	75	97
	19 & below	24	25	33
	20-29	294	280	294
	30-39	300	308	376
Age	40-49	223	205	241
Group ²⁶	50-59	181	178	198
	60-64	53	51	57
	65-69	25	23	18
	70-74	8	8	7
	75 & Above	1	3	3
	No Education	13	9	13
	Primary	249	206	255
Education	Secondary	561	574	622
Level ²⁷	Pre - U	88	64	83
	Vocational	124	152	158
	Tertiary and Above	74	76	96
	Crimes Against Person	242	231	259
	Property Crimes	151	168	169
	Commercial Crimes	71	88	121
Main	Drug Offences	497	429	471
Offence Group ²⁸	Immigration Offences	6	9	11
	Crime Against Public Order	43	57	65
	Customs Offences	42	43	45
	Traffic Offences	23	28	42
	Other Offences ²⁹	34	28	44

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 $^{^{25}}$ Remand population figures refer to the number of remand inmates who were in SPS's custody on 31st December of the respective years.

 $^{^{26}}$ Refreshed age groups are based on recommendations on definition and classification of age from Department of Statistics

²⁷ Educational level as declared by inmates upon admission.

²⁸ Inmates are grouped according to their aggravated (i.e., most serious) offence.

²⁹ Examples of "Other Offences" include National Registration offences, National Service-related offences and telecommunication & computer-related offences.



DRC Inmate Population³⁰

	Category	2021	2022	2023
Total DRC Population		3,120	3,337	3,981
Gender	Male	2,666	2,908	3,457
	Female	454	429	524
	19 & below	59	38	30
	20-29	500	407	478
	30-39	642	692	799
24	40-49	700	732	840
Age Group ³¹	50-59	752	876	1,049
	60-64	301	333	419
	65-69	126	189	268
	70-74	33	60	80
	75 & Above	7	10	18
	No Education	48	51	60
	Primary	939	1,018	1,185
Education Level ³²	Secondary	1,432	1,573	1,834
	Pre – U	119	136	211
	Vocational	378	373	445
	Tertiary and Above	204	186	246

 $^{^{30}}$ The DRC regime is meant for local inmates only. The figures refer to the number of DRC inmates who were in SPS's custody on 31^{st} December of the respective years.

 $^{^{31}\} Refreshed\ age\ groups\ are\ based\ on\ recommendations\ on\ definition\ and\ classification\ of\ age\ from\ Department\ of\ Statistics.$

³² Educational level as declared by inmates upon admission.



DRC Inmate Admissions³³

	Category	2021	2022	2023
Total DRC Admissions		1,714	1,995	2,191
Gender	Male	1,434	1,731	1,855
	Female	280	264	336
	19 & below	62	41	33
	20-29	387	342	409
	30-39	393	475	492
Admission	40-49	352	396	440
Age	50-59	333	443	490
Group ³⁴	60-64	127	171	189
	65-69	45	93	105
	70-74	13	30	24
	75 & Above	2	4	9
	No Education	18	30	28
	Primary	448	536	543
Education	Secondary	794	921	984
Level ³⁵	Pre - U	78	103	164
	Vocational	225	256	263
	Tertiary and Above	151	149	209

 $^{^{\}rm 33}$ The figures refer to the number of persons admitted to DRC in the respective calendar years.

³⁴ Age as at admission. Refreshed age groups are based on recommendations on definition and classification of age from Department of Statistics.

 $^{^{35}}$ Educational level as declared by inmates upon admission.



Criminal Law Detainee (CLD) Population³⁶

Category		2021	2022	2023
Total CLD Population		88	80	80
Gender	Male	88	80	80
	Female	0	0	0
	19 & below	2	4	2
	20-29	49	41	44
	30-39	28	24	22
27	40-49	8	10	11
Age Group ³⁷	50-59	1	1	1
	60-64	0	0	0
	65-69	0	0	0
	70-74	0	0	0
	75 & Above	0	0	0
	No Education	0	0	1
	Primary	12	16	16
Education	Secondary	62	50	48
Level ³⁸	Pre - U	5	3	1
	Vocational	8	10	13
	Tertiary and Above	1	1	1
Type of	Secret Societies	86	78	78
Criminal	Unlicensed Moneylending	2	2	2
Activity	Drug Trafficking	0	0	0
	Others	0	0	0

³⁶ The CLD population refers to the number of persons detained under the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act and were in SPS's custody on 31st December of the respective years.

 $^{^{37}}$ Refreshed age groups are based on recommendations on definition and classification of age from Department of Statistics.

³⁸ Educational level as declared by inmates upon admission.



Releases – Convicted Penal Releases

	Category	2021	2022	2023
Total C	Convicted Penal	6,776	6,352	6,094
Gender	Male	6,008	5,644	5,396
	Female	768	708	698

<u>Releases – DRC Releases</u>

	Category	2021	2022	2023
Total DRC	Releases	1,534	1,787	1,538
	Male	1,235	1,497	1,298
Gender	Female	299	290	240

Number of Judicial Executions

Executions	2021	2022	2023
Murder	0	0	0
Firearms	0	0	0
Drug	0	11	5
Total	0	11	5

Emplacement and Completion Rates for Community-Based Programmes (CBP)

Emplacement Number 2021	2022	2023
CBP for Penal Inmates 1,403	1,648	1,333
CBP for DRC Inmates 1,834	1,564	1,771

Completion Rates	2021	2022	2023
CBP for Penal inmates	94.0%	94.4%	95.8%
CBP for DRC inmates	85.4%	73.6%	71.0%

Sentencing Numbers and Completion Rates for Community-Based Sentences (CBS)

Day Reporting Order (DRO) ³⁹	2021	2022	2023
Number of Offenders Sentenced	30	14	5
Completion Rates	94.4%	100%	100%

Short Detention Order (SDO) ⁴⁰	2021	2022	2023

³⁹ A Day Reporting Order is a Community-Based Sentencing option whereby an offender reports to a day reporting centre for counselling and rehabilitation programmes, instead of serving a sentence in prison.

⁴⁰ A Short Detention Order is a Community-Based Sentencing option whereby an offender is detained in prison for a period not exceeding 14 days.



Number of Offenders Sentenced	14	26	27
Completion Rates	100%	100%	100%

Emplacement and Completion Rates for Mandatory Aftercare Scheme (MAS)⁴¹

Mandatory Aftercare Scheme	2021	2022	2023
Number of Inmates Emplaced	1,459	1,231	1,025
Completion Rates	94.4%	97.2%	95.4%

⁴¹ 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- and drug-free and prevent them from re-offending.



Upskilling of Inmates

Skills Training ⁴²				
Yearly Enrolment 2021 2022 2023				
Average Number of Training Hours per Inmate Trained per Year ⁴³	60	64	80	
Number of Inmates Trained ⁴⁴	4,748	3,740	4,046	

Work Programmes ⁴⁵			
Engaged in Work Programmes 2021 2022 2023			
Average Number of Inmates	2,615	2,308	2,279

Employment Assistance

Number of Employers That Support Hiring Ex-offenders				
2021 2022 2023				
5,634	6,265	6,516		

Percentage of Inmates Referred to YRSG and Secured a Job Prior to Release				
2021 2022 ⁴⁶ 2023				
94%	93%	94%		

⁴² Skills Training Programmes are administered by YRSG to equip inmates with nationally accredited skills. The training offered is aligned to Singapore's Skills Framework, and consists of a mix of literacy skills, critical core skills, and technical skills and competencies.

⁴³ Average number of training hours per inmate trained per year is calculated by taking the total number of training hours spent by inmates on training in a year divided by the total number of unique inmates trained in the same year.

⁴⁴ Number of inmates trained refers to the number of unique inmates trained; an inmate may attend more than one training course.

⁴⁵ 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 a real work environment within prisons.

⁴⁶ Figure is as at 31st December of the respective years. As YRSG is still assisting a small group of ex-offenders who were released in 2023 with employment assistance, the final figure for 2023 is subject to change.



Academic Programmes

Yearly Enrolment	2021	2022	2023
Other Courses ⁴⁷	70	40	32
GCE 'NA' Level	106	57	58
GCE 'NT' Level	92	64	65
GCE 'O' Level	80	73	66
GCE 'A' Level	57	37	21
NITEC (Business	0	13	14
Services)			
Diploma	29	16	38
Degree	4	3	6
Total	438	303	300

Academic Results

GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'NA' Pass)				
2021	2022	2023		
100%	97.7%	92.9%		
GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (19 points or less in ELMAB3 - English, Mathematics				
and Best 3)				
2021	2022	2023		
41.1%	46.5%	35.7%		
GCE 'NA' Level Results of Prison Candidates (5 'NA' Passes)				
2021	2022	2023		
53.6%	58.1%	57.1%		
GCE 'NT' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'NT' Pass)				
2021	2022	2023		
94.9%	100%	97.0%		
GCE 'NT' Level Results of Prison Candidates (3 'NT' Passes)				
2021	2022	2023		
61.5%	85.5%	78.8%		
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 1 'O' Level Pass)				
2021	2022	2023		
96.6%	86.8%	86.2%		
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (At least 3 'O' Level Passes)				
2021	2022	2023		
62.1%	57.9%	51.7%		
GCE 'O' Level Results of Prison Candidates (5 or more 'O' Level Passes)				
2021	2022	2023		
21.6%	16.7%	26.9%		

 $^{^{\}rm 47}$ Other courses include literacy and numeracy courses conducted by the Prison School.