

Corrections in Nova Scotia: Key Indicators

NOVEMBER 2017

Correctional Services is one of the core business areas of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice. The division's head office is part of the Department of Justice headquarters in Halifax. The divisional head office consists of the Executive Director, Correctional Services, three directors who share responsibility for community- and custody-based administration, policy, programs, training, and operations, 11 managers and staff who manage a variety of administrative or program responsibilities, and six administrative support staff. Legislation governing the operation of the Correctional Services Division is the *Correctional Services Act*.

Correctional Services is responsible for the administration and operation of community- and custody-based programs and services for adult and young persons in custody. Within the Correctional Services core business area there are two programs: Community Corrections and Correctional Facilities.¹ Each of these program areas is broken down into closely related activities that have a specific impact on the program's target group.

Community Corrections

The core businesses for Community Corrections are: to provide information to assist the Court in sentencing process(es); to administer and supervise community-based sentences of the Court; to assist the court by diverting offences from the court process through the Restorative Justice Program²; and, to provide programs that address dynamic criminogenic factors to assist with the successful reintegration of offenders into the community.

Community Corrections also operates the Halifax Youth Attendance Centre (HYAC). HYAC addresses the needs of moderate-high risk youth under court ordered community supervision in the greater Halifax area, by providing access to a number of services including, forensic youth mental health, education, employment support and addictions intervention. These youth cases are managed in a collaborative partnership with the IWK and the Department of Community Services.

Community Corrections has field offices across the province in: Amherst, Antigonish, Bedford, Bridgewater, Dartmouth, Digby, Glace Bay, Halifax, Kentville, Liverpool, Middleton, New Glasgow, North Sydney, Port Hawkesbury, Shelburne, Shubenacadie, Spryfield, Sydney, Truro, Windsor and Yarmouth.³

Correctional Facilities

The core businesses of the Correctional Facilities program are: to provide safe and secure custody, direction and control of persons in custody; and, to provide programs that address dynamic criminogenic factors to assist with the successful reintegration of offenders into the community.

¹ A map illustrating the location of community corrections offices and correctional facilities in Nova Scotia can be found at: http://novascotia.ca/just/Corrections/docs/Provincial_Map.pdf

² In November of 2016 the Nova Scotia Restorative Justice Program was expanded from its initial focus of dealing with youth to include adults who were in conflict with the law. The adult component of the Restorative Justice Program replaced the Adult Diversion program which had previously handled these cases. Further information on this change can be found at: <https://novascotia.ca/news/release/?id=20161121001>.

³ The Halifax Youth Attendance Centre is counted as one of the 22 probation offices located throughout Nova Scotia.

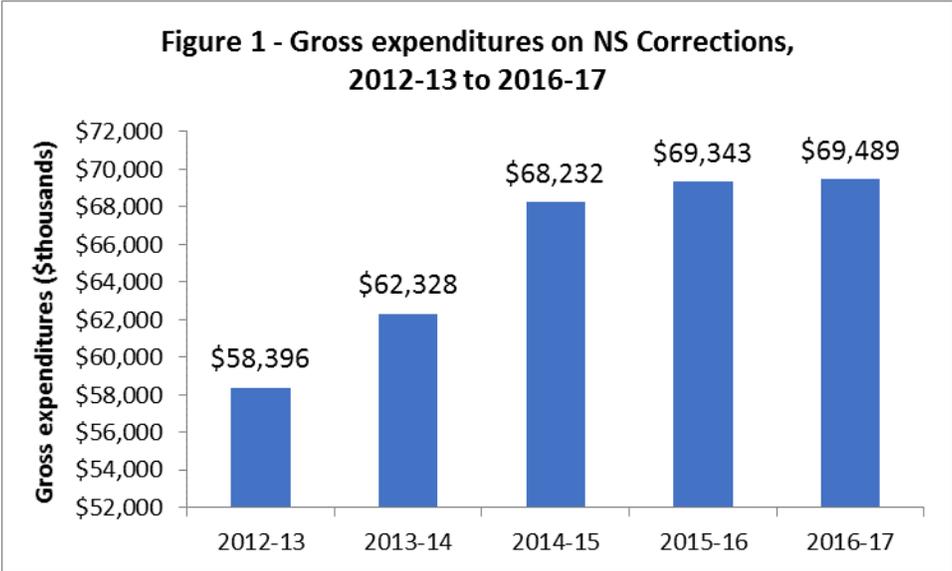
Adult correctional facilities are located in Dartmouth, Priestville, Gardiner Mines, and Yarmouth. The youth centre is in Waterville. The Cape Breton and Northeast Nova Scotia Correctional Facilities can also provide overnight accommodation for young persons. The Cape Breton, Northeast Nova Scotia, and Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facilities provide accommodation for women.

This document contains information on a number of key indicators relating to Correctional Services in Nova Scotia. Generally, data is provided for the most current five fiscal years⁴ so that the reader can examine changes over time. Sources for the statistics include the Nova Scotia Department of Justice and Statistics Canada.

Cost of Corrections

The cost of Correctional Services is an indicator of the resources required to administer custodial and community-based sentences in the province. Fluctuations in the cost of corrections may be driven by several factors, including but not limited to: the level of crime, legislative and policy responses to crime, sentencing practices, and administrative changes relating to organizational structure and the delivery of services, as well as changes in salaries and benefits for staff.

Figure 1 provides the gross operational expenditures for Correctional Services for the period 2012-13 to 2016-17. In 2016-17, gross expenditures remained stable compared to the prior year; a break in the general increasing trend over time.⁵ Over the five-year period, gross expenditures increased by approximately \$11.1 million or 19%.

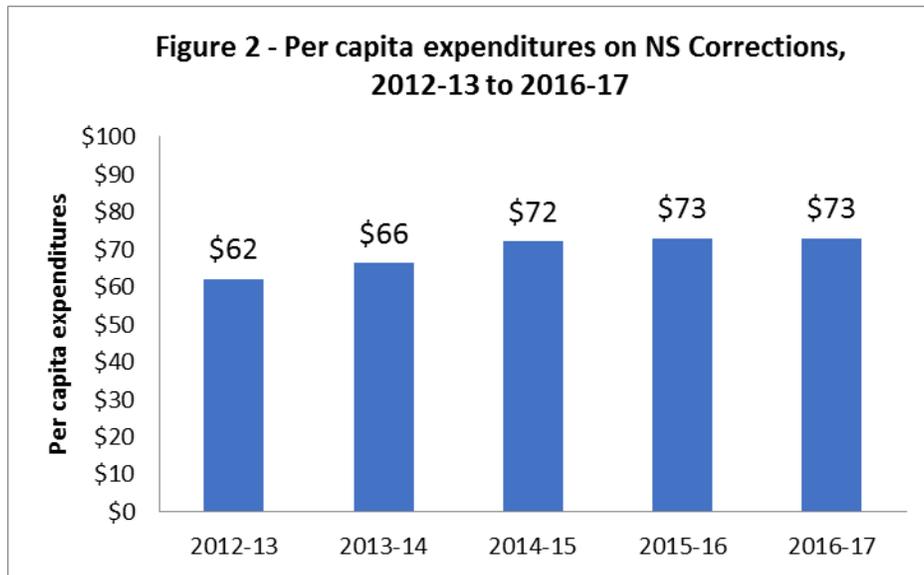


Source: Nova Scotia Department of Justice, Financial Services.

⁴ Each fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31st of the following calendar year. So, for example, fiscal year 2012-13 runs from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013.

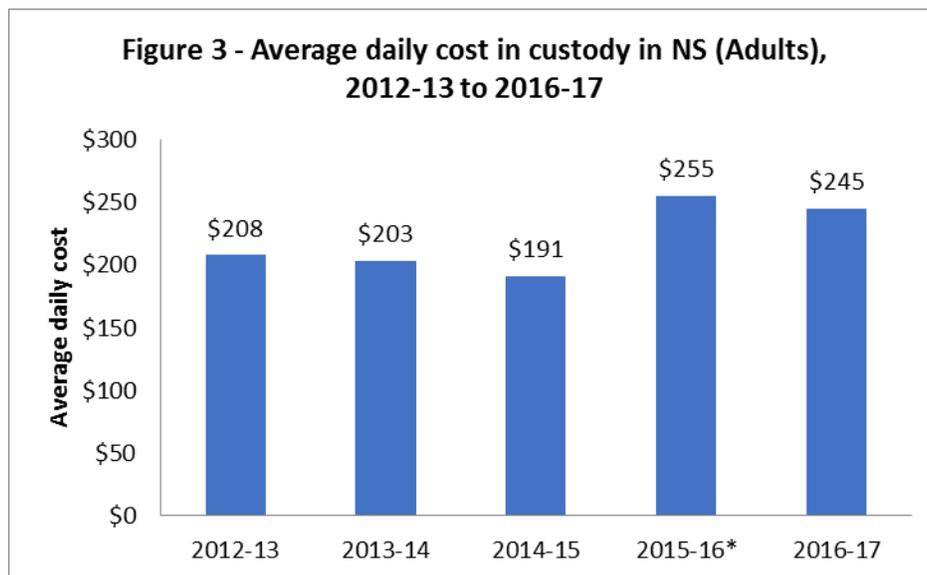
⁵ Note that expenditure data can be subject to revision over time including changes in what types of expense data is reported (i.e., gross vs. net) as well as issues such as structural changes in the Correctional Services Division. Gross expenditures refer to total expenditures before any adjustments are made for revenues/recoveries.

The per capita expenditures for Correctional Services was \$73 in 2016-17 which was unchanged from the prior year (Figure 2).⁶ Over the period 2012-13 to 2016-17, per capita expenditures increased by \$11 (or 18%).



Source(s): Nova Scotia Department of Justice, Financial Services.
 Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 051-0005 - Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories.

Figure 3 provides the average daily cost per adult offender in custody, based on actual expenditures by adults in custody for the period 2012-13 to 2016-17. The average daily cost per adult in custody was \$245 in 2016-17, which was \$10 or 4% lower than 2015-16, but \$37 (or 18%) higher than 2012-13.



Source: Policy, Planning and Research, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.
 * The 2015/16 figure was revised.

⁶ The per capita figures presented in Figure 2 were calculated by dividing the gross expenditures on Correctional Services by the total NS population.

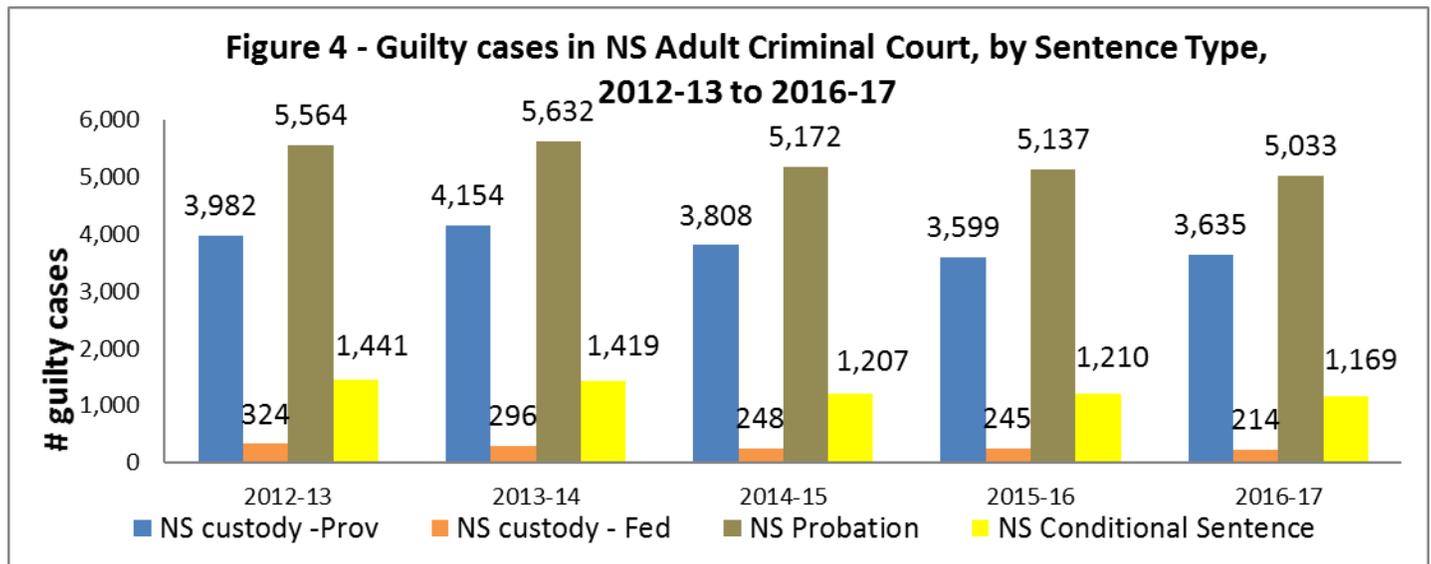
Court sentences – Adult

Figure 4 provides the number of guilty cases⁷ in adult criminal court in Nova Scotia which had a custody sentence⁸ (federal and provincial), probation, or a conditional sentence ordered by the court.⁹ These statistics provide an indicator of the types of sentence involving adults which subsequently led to involvement with the adult correctional system. It should be noted that the sentences are not mutually exclusive; a case may have more than one type of penalty (e.g., the offender may be given a period of custody as well as a period of probation).

In 2016-17, cases that were sentenced to provincial custody, probation, or a conditional sentence were relatively stable compared to the prior year. Cases with a provincial custody sentence increased by 1% while cases with probation and conditional sentences decreased by 2% and 3%, respectively. Cases that were sentenced to federal custody saw a larger change with a decrease of 13% in 2016-17 compared to the year prior.

Between 2012-13 and 2016-17, all sentence types experienced a decrease. The greatest decrease occurred for federal custody sentences, which decreased by 34%, followed by conditional sentences (-19%), probation (-10%), and provincial custody (-9%).

Probation was the most common sentence imposed in each of the last five years, at approximately half of all sentences. The number of cases with a sentence of provincial custody varied between 2012-13 to 2016-17, but consistently represented more than a third of sentences in the past five years.



Source: Policy, Planning and Research, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

⁷ In 2017, the Department of Justice adopted a new case definition for analyzing criminal court case volumes and processing times. Under the new definition, a case is one or more charges filed against the same person on the same Information or Summary Offence Ticket (SOT). As a result of this change in methodology, the data appearing in Figure 4 are not comparable to those in previous reports nor are they comparable with Statistics Canada reporting.

⁸ Total cases with a custody sentence can be calculated by adding together the number of cases where provincial custody was ordered, and the number of cases where federal custody was ordered.

⁹ Excluded are cases with a fine, restitution, or some 'other' sentence.

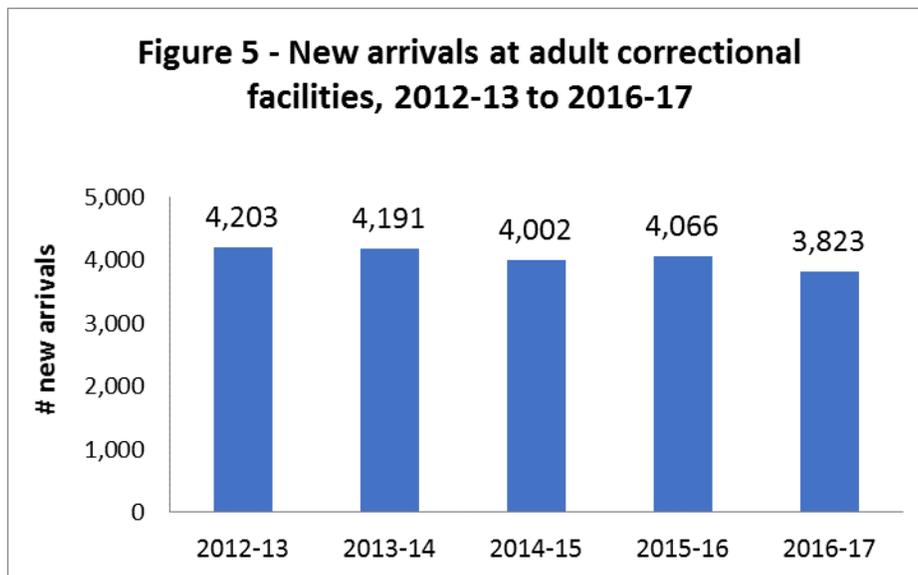
New arrivals at adult correctional facilities

Figure 5 provides data on the number of new arrivals in adult correctional facilities for the years 2012-13 to 2016-17. New arrivals in adult correctional facilities are counted as intakes only (e.g., from non-custody status to custody; transfer from another jurisdiction; or conditional sentence to custody). An individual could have more than one new arrival at a correctional facility during a fiscal year. New arrivals do not include the transfer of individuals between correctional facilities within the province.

A person may be admitted to a correctional facility upon: being sentenced to provincial custody; being remanded to provincial custody; or, some other reason (e.g., parole suspension; federal inmate in custody at provincial institution in advance of court hearing; breach of a court order, etc.).

There were six (6) adult correctional facilities in Nova Scotia operating during all, or part of the five-year period between 2012-13 to 2016-17. Three correctional facilities (e.g., Central Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Southwest) were operating through the whole five-year time period. In contrast, Antigonish and Cumberland Correctional Facilities were in operation until their decommissioning in January 2015; with the Northeast Nova Scotia Correctional Facility commencing operation in February 2015. Of the adult facilities, the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility is the largest and accounted for the greatest number of new arrivals.

In 2016-17, there were 3,823 new arrivals at adult correctional facilities in the province (Figure 5) which was 6% lower than 2015-16, and 9% lower than 2012-13.



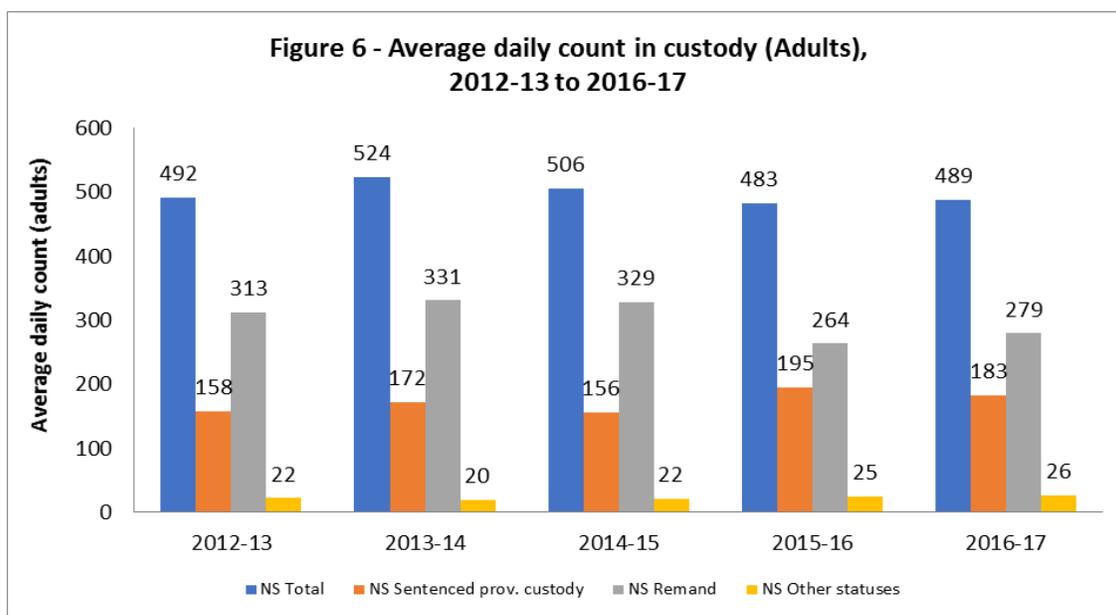
Source: Justice Enterprise Information Network (JEIN), Correctional Services Division, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

Average daily count – Adults

The average daily count of adults in custody reflects the number of adults physically in a provincial correctional facility at the time of the daily count. Daily counts are useful for describing the make-up of the custodial population in terms of custody status: sentenced custody (i.e., person in a correctional facility as a result of a court-ordered sentence), remand (i.e., temporary detention in a facility pending trial or sentencing), and other forms of detention (e.g., immigration holds, federal inmates, etc.). These statistics are helpful in looking at specific policy issues relating to custodial populations as well as operational issues relating to correctional facility capacity.¹⁰

In 2016-17, there was an average of 489 adults in custody on any given day, which was relatively stable compared to the prior year, with just a slight increase (6 inmates or 1%). The number of adults in provincial sentenced custody decreased by 6% while the number on remand increased by 6% in 2016-17.

Over the five-year period, the total average daily count in Nova Scotia has been variable, and ranged from a low of 483 to a high of 524. Adults on remand consistently outnumbered those in sentenced custody. In 2016-17, more than half (57%) were on remand while a smaller percentage (38%) were in sentenced custody.



| Table 1. Proportion of average daily counts in Nova Scotia, by custody type | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| % Sentenced provincial custody ¹¹ | 32% | 33% | 31% | 40% | 38% |
| % Remand | 63% | 63% | 65% | 55% | 57% |
| % Other statuses | 4% | 4% | 4% | 5% | 5% |

Source(s): Policy, Planning and Research, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 251-0005 - Average counts of offenders in provincial and territorial programs.

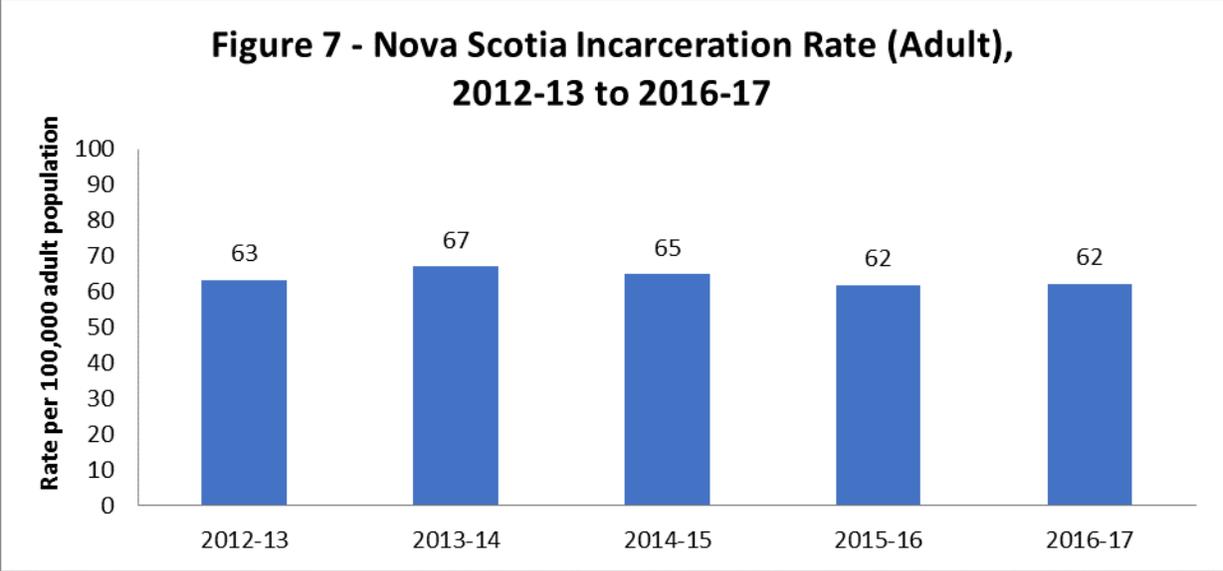
¹⁰ Adult correctional facilities vary in size, with the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility having the largest capacity (300 inmates) and Southwest Nova Scotia Correctional Facility having the smallest (38 inmates).

¹¹ Due to rounding, some percentages may not total to 100%.

Incarceration rate - Adult

In 2016-17, the adult incarceration rate in Nova Scotia was the same as the prior year, and was only slightly lower (2%) than in 2012-13 (Figure 7).¹² The incarceration rate varied somewhat over this time period from a low of 62 per 100,000 adult population to a high of 67 per 100,000.¹³

In 2015-16, the most current year for which national level statistics are available, Nova Scotia had one of the lowest adult incarceration rates in the country, a consistent pattern over the prior 10 years.



Source(s): Policy, Planning and Research, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.
Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 251-0005 - Average counts of offenders in provincial and territorial programs, annual.
Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 051-0005 - Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories.

¹² The incarceration rate for adults is calculated as the total average daily count figure divided by the size of the adult population and standardized per 100,000 population. The provincial incarceration rate is an indicator of the proportion of Nova Scotia residents, in a given year, who are in custody (sentenced custody, remand, “other status”) in provincial institutions. It excludes federal institutions, but includes federally sentenced offenders in provincial institutions.

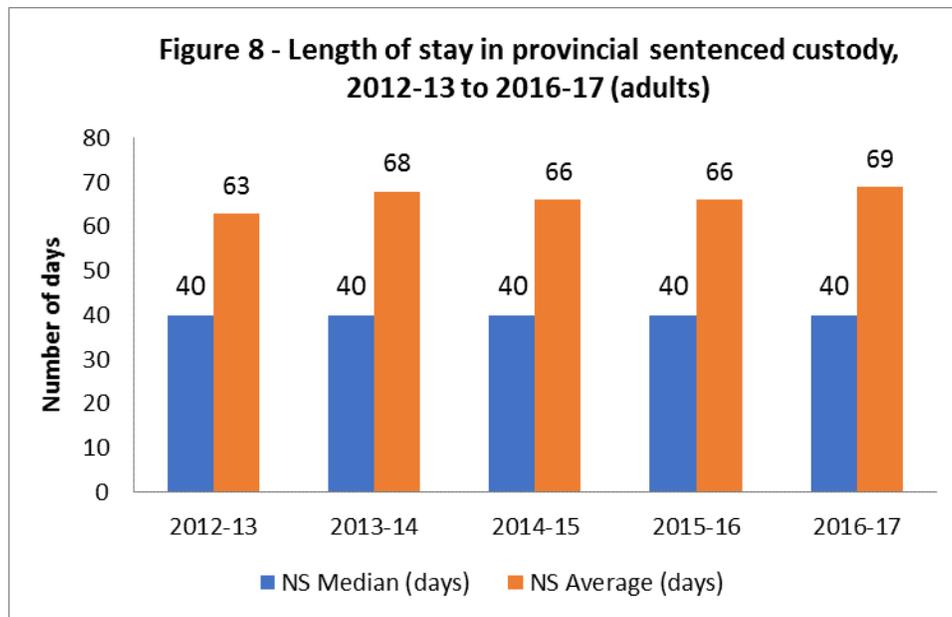
¹³ While the incarceration rate figures reported above are rounded to the nearest whole number, the calculations used the incarceration rate figure rounded to one decimal place which can slightly affect the percentages reported.

Length of stay in provincial sentenced custody - Adults

Statistics on length of stay in custody provide information on the amount of time offenders spend in a facility prior to release. This information is useful for administrative planning in specific areas such as programming. It should be noted that the length of time spent in a facility may not equal the length of time ordered by the court due to earned remission (i.e., reduced time in custody due to good behaviour).

Figure 8 provides the average and median length of stay in provincial sentenced custody in adult correctional facilities in Nova Scotia for the period of 2012-13 to 2016-17.¹⁴

The median length of sentenced custody in 2016-17 was 40 days and was unchanged over the five-year time period.¹⁵ The average time spent in sentenced custody for 2016-17 was 69 days, which was 3 days (or 5%) higher than the previous year, and 6 days (or 10%) higher compared to 2012-13. The average length of stay in sentenced custody varied from a high of 69 days to a low of 63 days.



Source: Policy, Planning and Research, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

¹⁴ The average (mean) and median length of stay in provincial sentenced custody is an estimate calculated based on two-thirds of the aggregate sentence length (days). This assumes that inmates have earned one-third remission for their sentences.

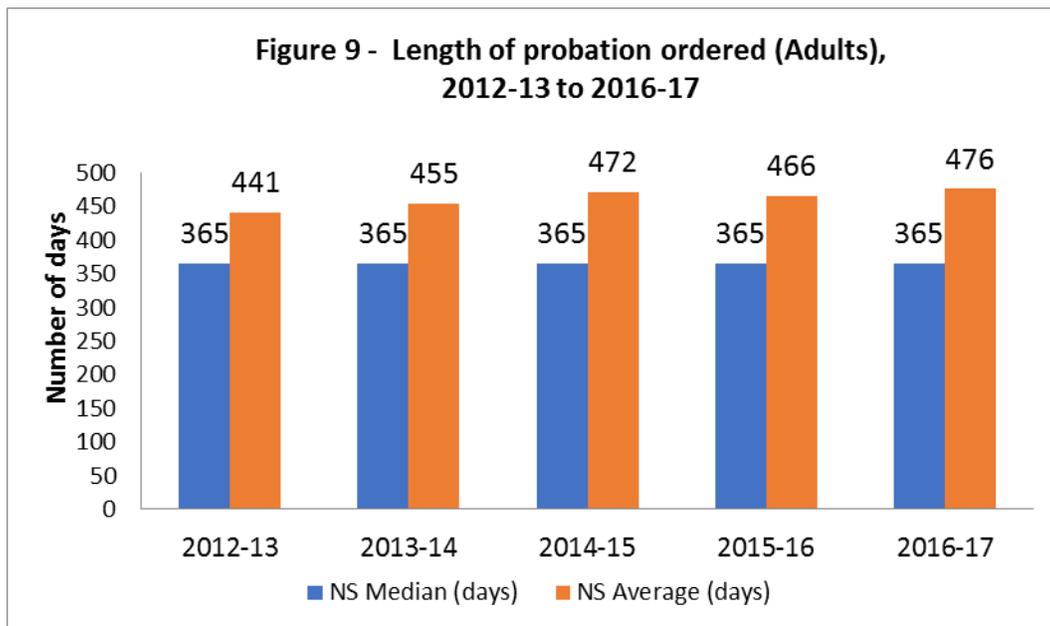
¹⁵ The median length of stay is the midpoint of the sorted data for length of custody (days), where exactly half the data are above and half below the midpoint. While average case processing times can be affected by a small number of unusually long or short cases (i.e., outliers), the median case processing time is not affected by such cases.

Sentence length for probation - Adults

Statistics on sentence length for probation provide information on the amount of time that adult offenders are subject to probation conditions imposed by the courts on a probation order.

Figure 9 provides the average and median length of probation ordered by adult criminal courts in Nova Scotia for the period of 2012-13 to 2016-17.

The median length of probation ordered in 2016-17 was 365 days, which has been constant in the past five years. The average length of probation ordered, on the other hand, has generally had an increasing trend since 2012-13. In 2016-17, the average length of a probation sentence was 476 days, an increase of 10 days (or 2%) from the previous year, and 35 days (or 8%) higher than in 2012-13.¹⁶



Source: Policy, Planning and Research, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

¹⁶ In 2017, the Department of Justice adopted a new case definition for analyzing criminal court case volumes and processing times. Under the new definition, a case is one or more charges filed against the same person on the same Information or Summary Offence Ticket (SOT). As a result of this change in methodology, the data appearing in Figure 9 are not comparable to those in previous reports nor are they comparable with Statistics Canada reporting.

Admissions to adult correctional facilities – by sex

Whenever a person enters into custody, they have an opportunity to self-identify various attributes such as their sex, ethnicity, and religious background during in-take admission. Self-identification informs the facilities, and the Department of particular programming needs specific to a group of persons in custody.

Figure 10 shows the proportion of admissions to an adult correctional facility in Nova Scotia, which were male or female. The majority of admissions were male, with the proportion being stable at 85% to 86% between 2012-13 and 2016-17.

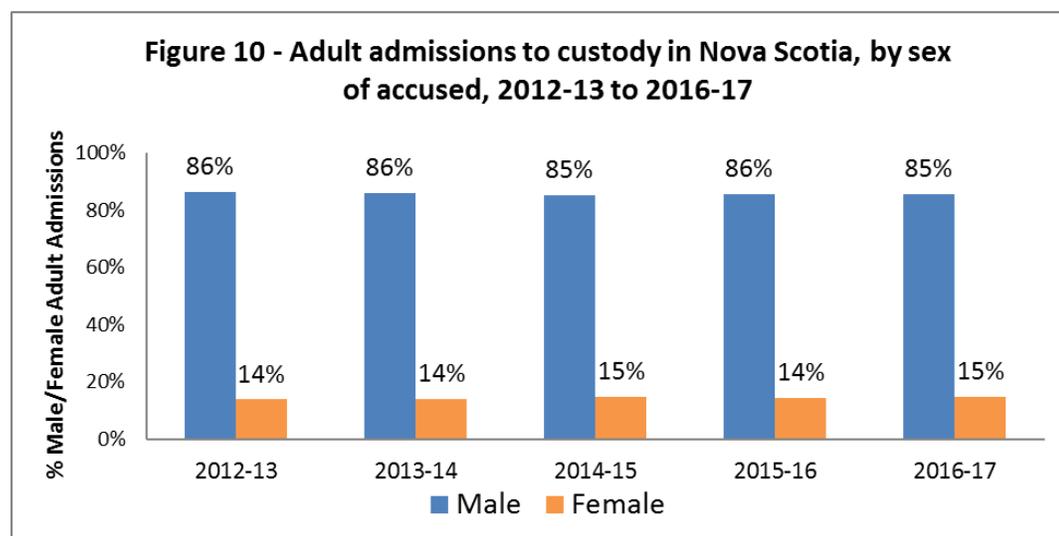


Table 2 shows the proportion of males and females admitted in correctional facilities by the type of custody between 2012-13 and 2016-17. Percentages are calculated by sex, out of the total for all custody types.

In 2016-17, 61% of all male admissions were for remand, compared to 56% of all female admissions that same year. The proportion of males in remand custody has been slightly but steadily increasing in the past five years, from 57% to 61%, while the proportion of females have been somewhat variable from 56% to 60%. The proportion of males and females admitted to remand has been relatively similar; ranging from a difference of 1 to 3 percentage points, except in 2016-17 where the proportion saw the biggest difference at 5 percentage points.

The proportion of males admitted to provincial sentenced custody between 2012-13 and 2016-17 has been relatively stable, ranging from 14% to 16%. Females admitted to provincial sentenced custody has also been stable, between 11% to 13%, and is slightly lower than the proportion of males sentenced in the past five years.

Table 2. Proportion of custodial admissions, by sex and custody type

| | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Male, Remand | 57% | 57% | 57% | 58% | 61% |
| Female, Remand | 56% | 60% | 60% | 59% | 56% |
| Male, Provincial Sentenced Custody | 15% | 16% | 14% | 15% | 14% |
| Female, Provincial Sentenced Custody | 13% | 11% | 11% | 13% | 13% |

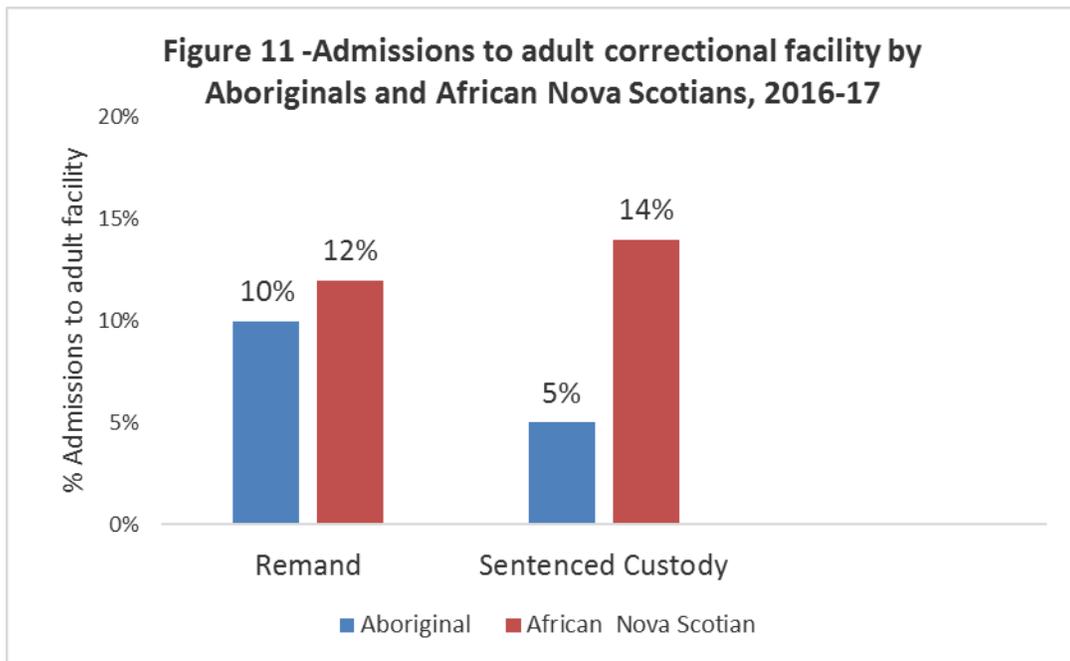
Source: Policy, Planning & Research, NS Department of Justice.

Admissions to adult correctional facilities – by ethnicity

Aboriginal and African Nova Scotians make up a greater proportion of people in correctional facilities than in the general population.

Aboriginal people were over-represented in admissions to remand in 2016-17. While they make up 6% of the population of Nova Scotia they accounted for 10% of admissions to remand in the province. However, they were not over-represented in admissions to sentenced custody in 2016-17, accounting for 5% of admissions.

African Nova Scotians make up about 2 percent of Nova Scotians, but represented 12 percent and 14 percent of admissions to remand and sentenced custody, respectively (Figure 11).¹⁷ African Nova Scotians were over-represented both in admissions to remand and in admissions to sentenced custody in 2016-17.



Source: Policy, Planning & Research, NS Department of Justice.
Statistics Canada, 2016 Census Profile – Nova Scotia [Province] and Canada.

¹⁷ Percentage calculations reported in Figure 11 exclude admissions where ethnicity was unknown. Due to small numbers, percentages for youth are not reported.

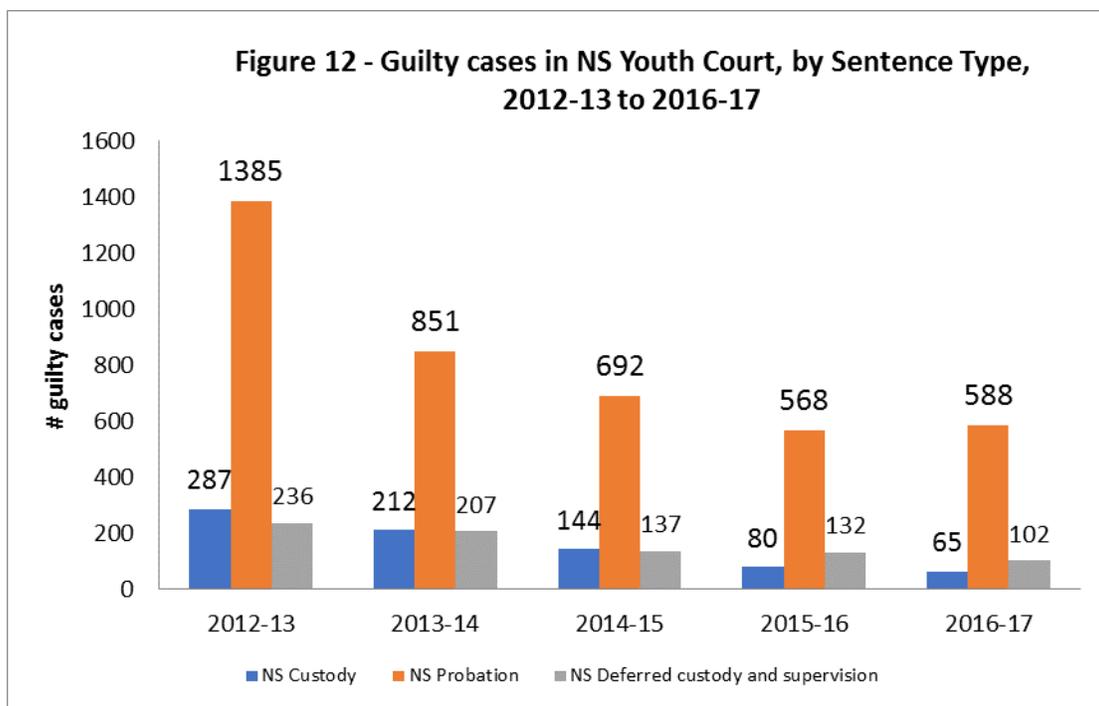
Court sentences – Youth

Figure 12 provides the number of guilty cases in youth court in Nova Scotia which had sentences of custody, probation or deferred custody and supervision (i.e., sentence placing the youth in the community subject to certain conditions such that if adhered to, results in the youth serving the remainder of the custody term in the community).¹⁸ These statistics provide an indicator of the types of sentence involving youth which subsequently led to involvement with the youth correctional system. It should be noted that the sentences are not mutually exclusive and so a case may have more than one type of penalty (e.g., the youth may be given a period of custody as well as a period of probation).

In 2016-17, there were decreases in the number of youth cases with custody sentences (-19%) and deferred custody and supervision sentences (-23%). In contrast, there was an increase of 4% in probation sentences for youth.

While cases with a sentence of custody or sentence of deferred custody and supervision continued on a declining trend, the pattern for probation sentences changed in 2016-17 with a slight increase.

The number of cases with probation consistently outnumbered the other sentence types over the five-year period.



Source: Policy, Planning and Research, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

¹⁸ In 2017, the Department of Justice adopted a new case definition for analyzing criminal court case volumes and processing times. Under the new definition, a case is one or more charges filed against the same person on the same Information or Summary Offence Ticket (SOT). As a result of this change in methodology, the data appearing in Figure 12 are not comparable to those in previous reports nor are they comparable with Statistics Canada reporting.

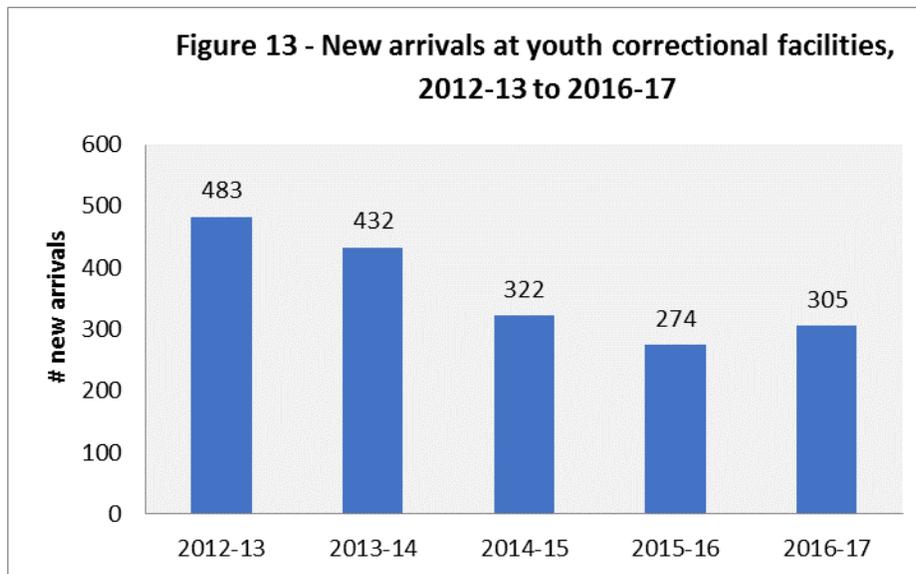
New arrivals at youth correctional facilities

The statistics presented below are for the number of new arrivals at youth correctional facilities in Nova Scotia between 2012-13 to 2016-17. New arrivals in youth facilities are counted as intakes only (e.g., from non-custody status to custody, transfer from another jurisdiction, or deferred custody to custody). New arrivals do not include the transfer of individuals between correctional facilities within the province. An individual could have more than one new arrival at a correctional facility during a fiscal year.

Reasons why a youth is in a facility may include the following: being sentenced to open, open/secure or secure custody; being remanded to custody; or, breach of a court order.

Two youth correctional facilities were operating in Nova Scotia during this time period: the Nova Scotia Youth Centre (NSYC); and the Cape Breton Youth Detention Facility (CBYDF).¹⁹ Of the two youth facilities, the Nova Scotia Youth Centre is the largest and accounts for the greatest number of new arrivals (78%).

In 2016-17, there were 305 new arrivals at youth correctional facilities which was 11% higher than 2015-16 but 37% lower than 2012-13 (Figure 13).



Source: Justice Enterprise Information Network (JEIN), Correctional Services, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

¹⁹ The Cape Breton Youth Detention Facility is designed as a short-term term detention facility.

Average daily count – Youth

The average daily count of youth in custody reflects the number of youth physically located in a correctional facility at the time of the daily count (at midnight of each day). Average daily counts are useful for describing the make-up of the youth custodial population in terms of custody status: sentenced custody, remand (also sometimes referred to as pre-trial detention), and other forms of detention (e.g., Provincial Director remand, etc.).²⁰ These statistics can be helpful in looking at specific policy issues relating to different types of custodial populations as well as operational issues relating to correctional facility capacity.

In 2016-17, there was an average of 23 youth in custody on any given day including 11 in sentenced custody, 11 in remand, and 1 on ‘other’ statuses (Figure 14). The total count of youth in custody decreased by 21% from 2015-16 to 2016-17.²¹ Over the past 5 years, it has been steadily declining.

Unlike the adult custodial population, the average daily count of youth in sentenced custody was consistently higher than the number on remand during the period 2012-13 to 2015-16. However, this changed in 2016-17 when the average daily count for youth in sentenced and remand custody was the same.

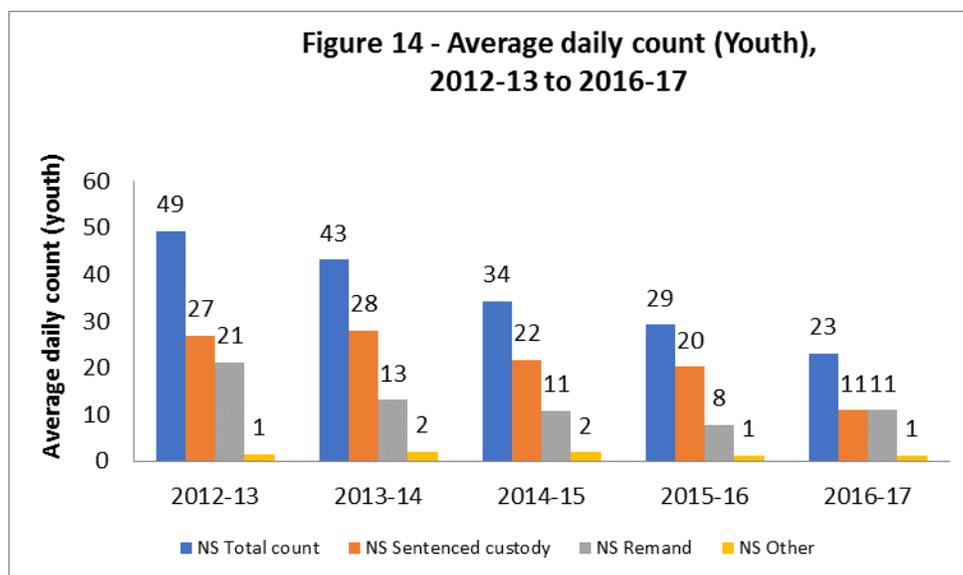


Table 3. Proportion of custodial admissions by custody status

| | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| % NS Sentenced custody | 54% | 65% | 63% | 69% | 47% |
| % NS Remand | 43% | 30% | 31% | 26% | 47% |
| % NS Other | 3% | 5% | 6% | 4% | 5% |

Source(s): Policy, Planning and Research, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 251-0008 - Youth correctional services, average counts of young persons in provincial and territorial correctional services.

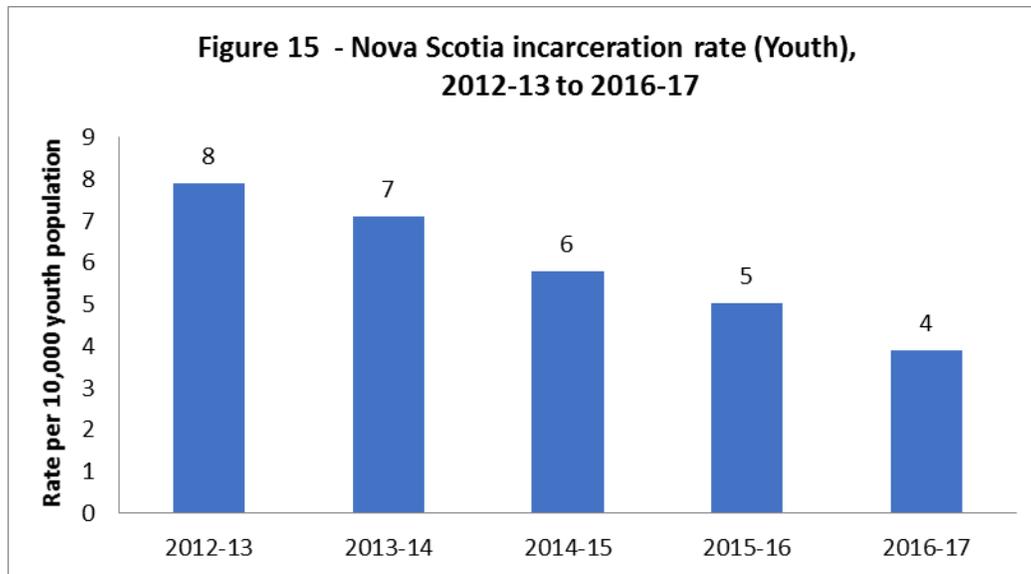
²⁰ A Provincial Director remand occurs when there are reasonable grounds to believe that a youth has breached a condition associated with supervision in the community. When this occurs, the designated Provincial Director orders the youth to be held in custody until such time that a review can be conducted.

²¹ While the average daily count figures reported above are rounded to the nearest whole number, calculations use the average daily count figure rounded to one decimal place which can slightly affect the percentages reported.

Incarceration rate – Youth

In 2016-17, the youth incarceration rate in Nova Scotia was 4 youth per 10,000 youth population (Figure 15).

Over the five-year period, the rate declined steadily. The 2016-17 rate was half the 2012-13 rate.²²



Source(s): Policy, Planning and Research, Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 251-0008 - Youth correctional services, average counts of young persons in provincial and territorial correctional services. CANSIM Table 051-0005 - Estimates of population, Canada, provinces and territories

²² The youth incarceration rate is an indicator of the proportion of Nova Scotia youth who are in custody (sentenced custody, remand, “other status”) in a provincial youth facility. It is calculated as the total daily count figure divided by the size of the population 12 to 17 years of age and standardized per 10,000 youth population.

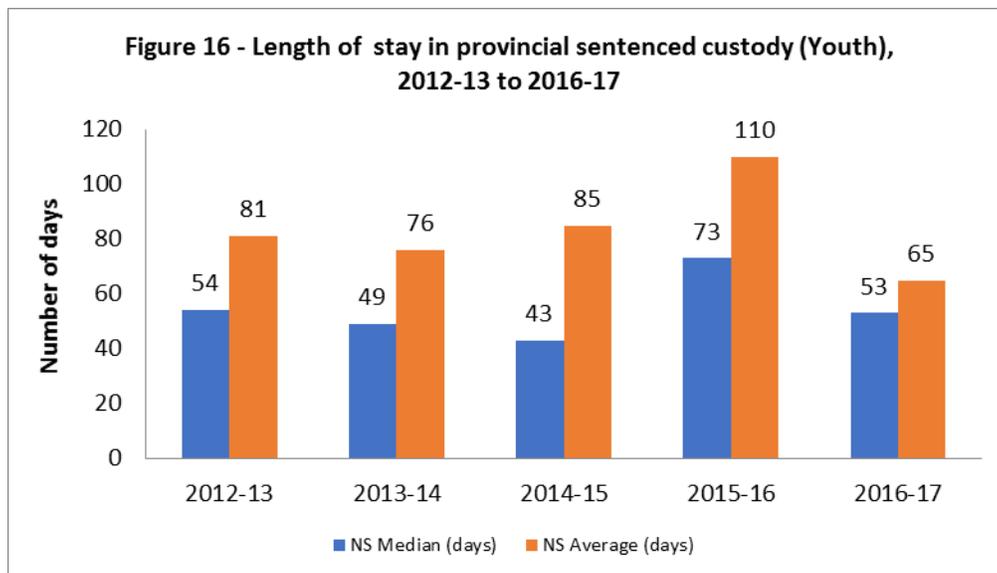
While the incarceration rate figures reported above are rounded to the nearest whole number, the calculations used the incarceration rate figure rounded to one decimal place which can slightly affect the percentages reported.

Length of stay in provincial sentenced custody – Youth

Statistics on length of stay of youth in custody provide information on the relative amount of time youth spend in a facility. This information is useful for administrative planning in specific areas such as programming. Average length of stay for youth in provincial sentenced custody is an estimate using the custody portion of youth custody and supervisions sentences.

The median length of stay for youth in sentenced custody in 2016-17 was 53 days (Figure 16), a decrease of 20 days or 27% from 2015-16 and 1 day lower than in 2012-13 (-2%).²³ The average length of stay in sentenced custody for 2016-17 was 65 days, a decrease of 45 days or 41% compared to the previous year, and 16 days (or 20%) lower than in 2012-13.

The median length of stay in provincial sentenced custody of youth in Nova Scotia varied over time from a high of 73 days to a low of 43 days. The average stay over this time period varied from a high of 110 days in 2015-16 to a low of 65 days in 2016-17.



Source: Policy, Planning and Research, Nova Scotia Department of Justice

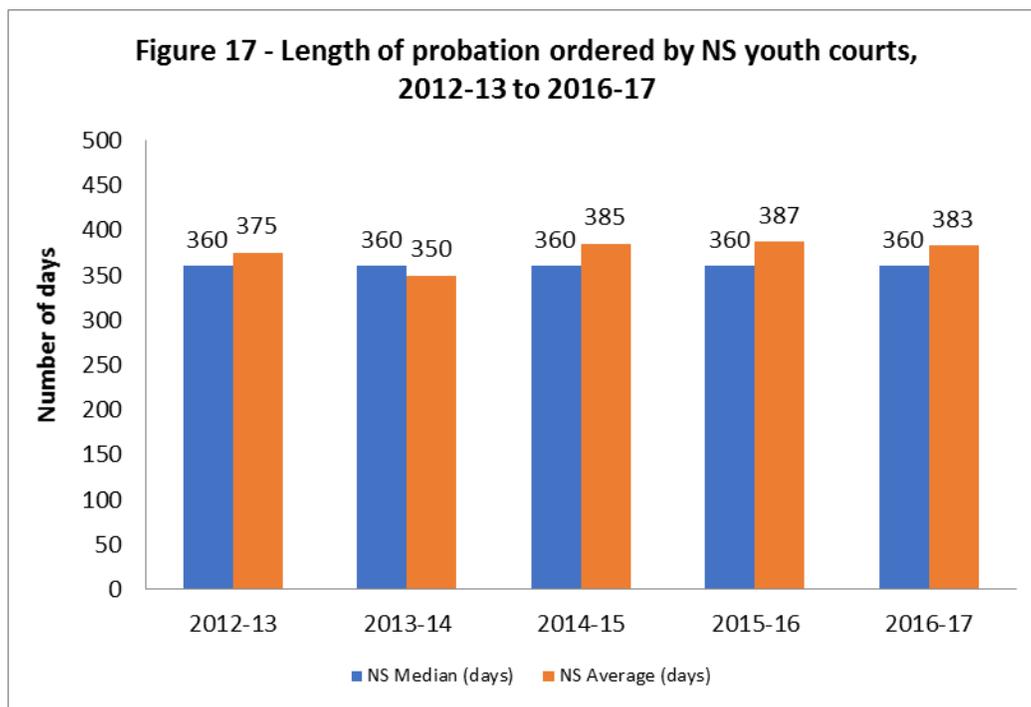
²³ The median length of stay is the midpoint of the sorted data for length of custody (days), where exactly half the data are above and half below the midpoint. While average case processing times can be affected by a small number of unusually long or short cases (i.e., outliers), the median case processing time is not affected by such cases.

Sentence length for probation – youth

Statistics on sentence length for youth on probation provide information on the amount of time that young offenders are subject to probation conditions imposed by the courts on a probation order while in the community.²⁴

Figure 17 provides information on the length of probation ordered by youth courts in Nova Scotia between 2012-13 to 2016-17. The median length of probation ordered was 360 days in 2016-17 and was stable compared to prior years. The average length of probation ordered for 2016-17 was 383 days, which was 4 days (1%) less than in the year prior.

The average length of probation ordered by Nova Scotia youth courts was relatively stable between 2014-15 and 2016-17.



Source: Policy, Planning and Research, Nova Scotia Department of Justice

²⁴ In 2017, the Department of Justice adopted a new case definition for analyzing criminal court case volumes and processing times. Under the new definition, a case is one or more charges filed against the same person on the same Information or Summary Offence Ticket (SOT). As a result of this change in methodology, the data appearing in Figure 17 are not comparable to those in previous reports nor are they comparable with Statistics Canada reporting.

Major incidents – Adults/Youth

Major incidents involving persons in custody are defined in the Nova Scotia Department of Justice policy – ‘Disclosure of information on major incidents involving persons in custody’.²⁵ Major incidents include, but are not limited to: assault in custody requiring hospitalization, death in custody, escape from custody, seizure of explosives or firearms, or a riot. Major incidents typically involve correctional facilities. In some instances however, the issue which arises may also involve the work of other stakeholder organizations such as the Court Services Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Justice.

In 2016-17, there were eight (8) major incidents in adult and youth correctional facilities. The specifics associated with the incidents are summarized below. Note that the date listed is when the major incident report was published rather than when the specific incident occurred. Typically, major incident reports are issued either on the day that the incident occurred or on the day following. In some cases however, the time elapsed could be several days.

| Table 4. List of major incidents in 2016-17 involving adult and youth correctional facilities | |
|---|--|
| Date | Incident |
| July 8, 2016 | Assault at Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility |
| July 8, 2016 | Correctional Services transport vehicle involved in collision |
| August 2, 2016 | Assault at Northeast Nova Scotia Correctional Facility |
| August 23, 2016 | Assault at Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility |
| September 5, 2016 | Staff assault at Nova Scotia Youth Centre |
| November 7, 2016 | Medical emergency at Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility |
| November 7, 2016 | Death in Correctional Services custody |
| November 25, 2016 | Mistaken release from custody |

Source: Nova Scotia Department of Justice. See <http://novascotia.ca/just/updates.asp>.

If you have any questions relating to the content of this document please contact:

The Office of the Executive Director
Correctional Services Division
Nova Scotia Department of Justice
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Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2L6
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²⁵ The policy document – ‘Disclosure of Information on Major Incidents Involving Persons in Custody’ can be found at: https://novascotia.ca/just/global_docs/Disclosure%20Policy_Major%20Incidents.pdf