

REVEALING RESEARCH & EVALUATION (RREV)

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PERFORMANCE, RESEARCH AND EVALUATION (PREV) UNIT
STRATEGIC OPERATIONS DIVISION

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Enabling evidence-based decision making to advance BC Corrections' priorities by providing research expertise and data analytic support.

This issue highlights the changing profile of individuals under BC Corrections' supervision between 2010 and 2019, and initiatives introduced to support the changing population.

Why is knowing about our clients important?

By understanding who the individuals under our supervision are, we are better able to support them through programs and interventions that address their needs.

What type of clients do we serve?

BC Corrections' provides correctional services and programs to individuals 18 years or older. The most frequent court orders for **community supervision** include:

- **Bail:** Individuals accused of a criminal offence are required to appear in court at a designated time and date, and abide by conditions as directed in the order and by the bail supervisor.
- **Probation:** Offenders sentenced by the courts to serve a community sentence for a specified period of time. Offenders on probation must meet conditions identified in the order that is supervised by a probation officer.
- **Conditional Sentence:** A sentence served in the community in which the clients must obey certain conditions. If conditions are not obeyed, the client may be placed in custody to serve a portion or the remainder of their sentence.
- **Recognizance Peace Bond:** The court can order a peace bond even if individuals have not been charged or convicted. It requires agreement to specific conditions.

The most frequent court orders for **custody supervision** include:

- **Remand:** Higher risk individuals charged with a criminal offence held in custody prior to their court hearings.
- **Sentenced:** Individuals convicted and sentenced to less than 2 years in custody.
- **Federal holds:** Individuals sentenced to 2 years or more held in provincial custody before being transferred to a federal correctional centre.
- **Immigration:** Individuals held under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act pending an immigration review.
- **Dual:** Individuals held under remand and a provincial sentence at the same time on different charges.

Meet a researcher: Daniel Morris



Daniel holds a MEd in Measurement, Evaluation and Research Methods from UBC, a MAsc in Applied Psychology from University of Waterloo, and a Credentialed Evaluator designation from the Canadian Evaluation Society. Prior to joining BC Corrections, Daniel conducted research and evaluations in the education, post-secondary education, health, labour and arts sectors.

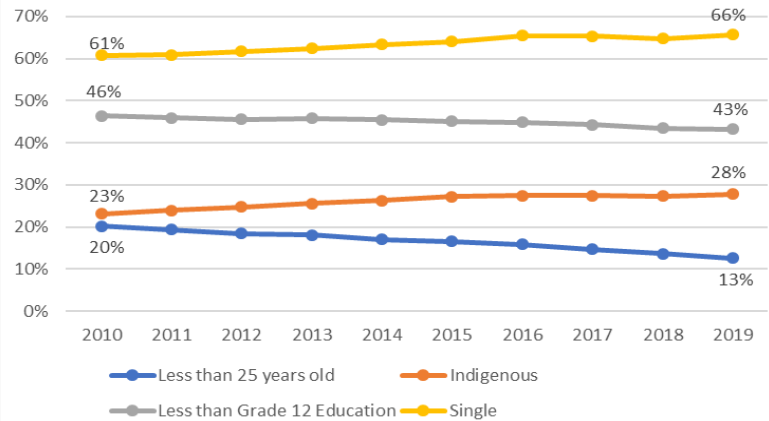
Since joining Corrections in 2017, Daniel has enjoyed supporting diverse projects including: Relationship Violence Prevention, Integrated Transitional and Release Planning-Homelessness Intervention, and the Aboriginal Liaison Worker programs.

Changes to the community client profile: 2010 to 2019

Client Demographics

Between 2010 and 2019 the proportion of:

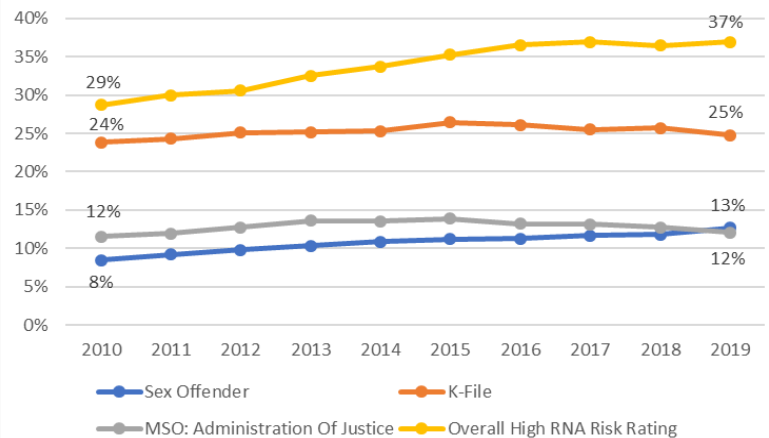
- Single clients (i.e., those not in a relationship) rose from 61% to 66%.
- Clients with a less than grade 12 education declined from 46% to 43%.
- Indigenous clients rose from 23% to 28%.
- Clients less than 25 years old declined from 20% to 13%.
- Male clients have remained steady ranging from a low of 83% to a high of 84%.
- Clients who self-identify as being unemployed has remained steady, between 55% and 57%.



Client Characteristics

Between 2010 and 2019 the proportion of:

- Clients with an overall high risk rating rose from 29% to 37% (Approximately 35% of clients are not assessed—mainly on bail).
- Clients accused/convicted of intimate partner violence (K-files) remained stable ranging from a low of 24% to a high of 26%.
- Clients with a most serious offence relating to an 'Administration of Justice' charge has remained stable ranging from a low of 12% to a high of 14%.
- Clients accused/convicted of a sex offence rose from 8% to 13%.



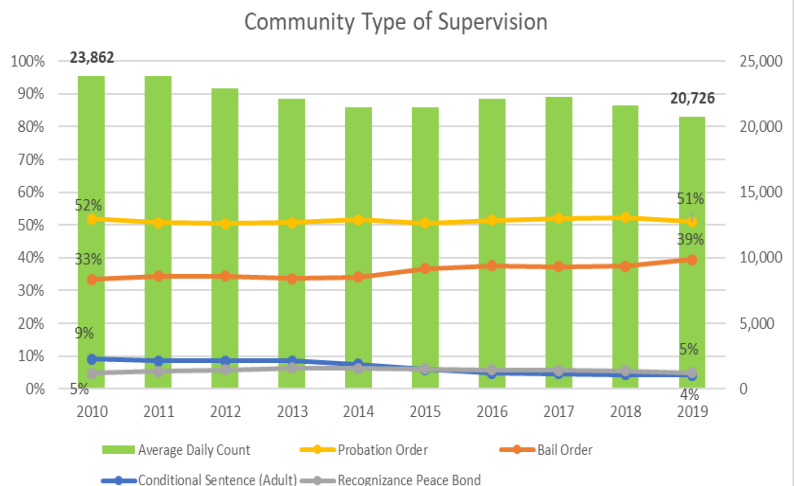
Type of Supervision

Between 2010 and 2019 the average daily count of clients under all forms of community supervision:

- Declined from approximately 24,000 to 21,000.

The types of clients supervised in the community (i.e., bail, CSO, probation) has remained stable with the following exceptions:

- Clients with conditional sentence orders declined from 9% to 4%.
- Clients on bail rose from 33% to 39%.



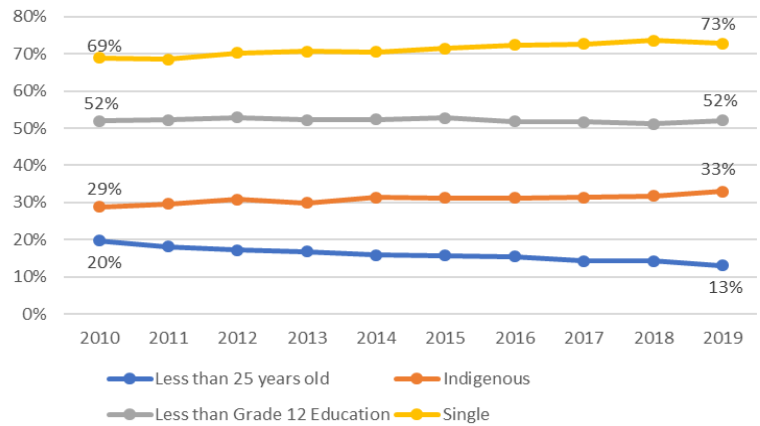
*Note, proportions are based on average daily counts and excludes clients with missing or unknown information.

Changes to the custody client profile: 2010 to 2019

Individuals in Custody Demographics

Between 2010 and 2019 the proportion of:

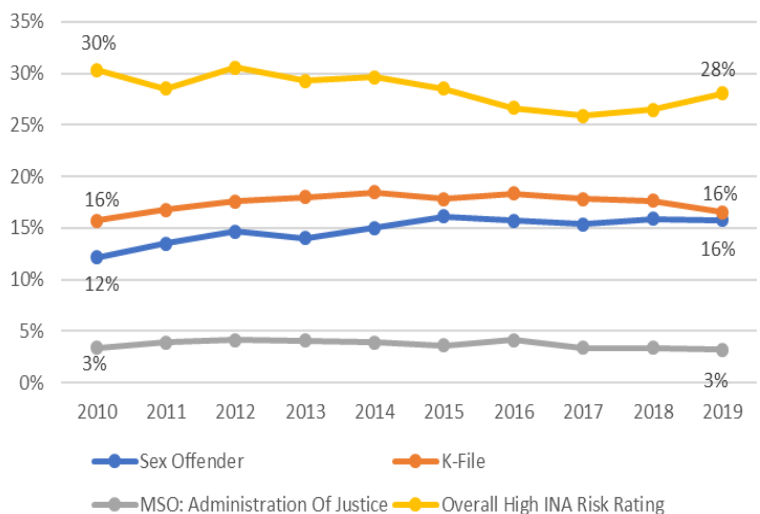
- Single clients (i.e., those not in a relationship) rose from 69% to 73%
- Clients with a less than grade 12 education remained stable, between 51% and 53%.
- Indigenous clients rose from 29% to 33%.
- Clients less than 25 years old declined from 20% to 13%.
- Male clients have remained steady ranging from a low of 93% to a high of 94%.
- Client unemployment has remained steady ranging from a low of 69% to a high of 71%.



Individuals in Custody Characteristics

Between 2010 and 2019 the proportion of:

- Clients with an overall high risk rating declined slightly from 30% to 28%. (Approximately 61% of individuals in custody are not assessed—mainly remanded inmates)
- Individuals accused/convicted of intimate partner violence (K-files) remained stable ranging from a low of 16% to a high of 18%.
- Individuals accused/convicted of a sex offence rose from 12% to 16%.
- Clients with a most serious offence relating to an 'Administration of Justice' charge remained stable ranging from a low of 3% to a high of 4%.



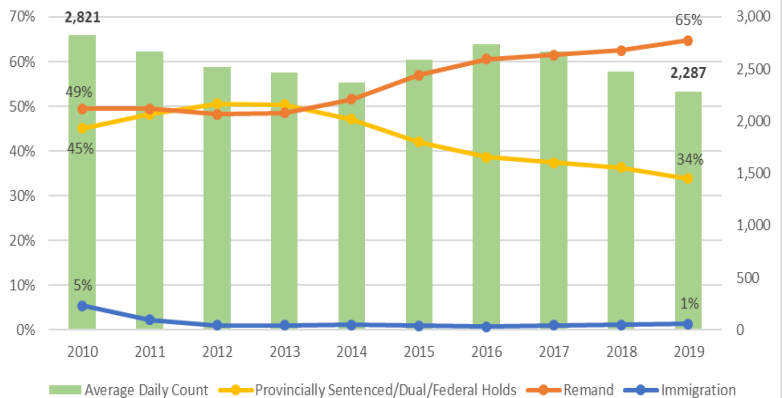
Legal Hold Status

Between 2010 and 2019 the average daily count of individuals in custody:

- Declined from approximately 2,800 to 2,300.

The reasons for clients being supervised in custody has shifted significantly:

- Clients held on remand rose from 49% to 65%
- Clients provincially sentenced, dual, or held on a federal hold increased from 45% to 51% before falling to 34%.



*Note, proportions are based on average daily counts and exclude clients with missing or unknown information.

Changes in clients' criminogenic needs: 2010 to 2019

According to the Risk-Need-Responsivity paradigm, treatment programs for correctionally involved individuals should focus on targeting criminogenic needs in order to have the greatest impact on reducing recidivism. As such, understanding how these needs have changed over time can help ensure the programs offered are appropriate and that they continue to meet the needs of the population.

Change in Criminogenic Needs among Community Clients

Between 2010 and 2019 the criminogenic needs of community clients changed as follows:

Increasing proportion of clients with needs in:

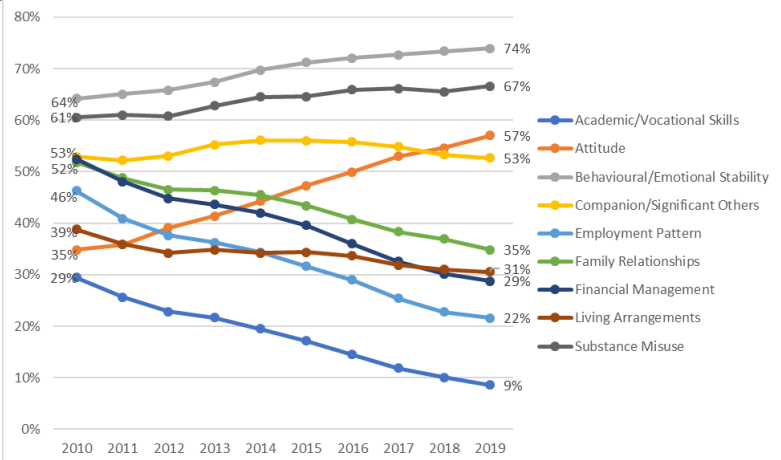
- Behavioural/Emotional Stability (64% to 74%)
- Substance Misuse (61% to 67%)
- Attitudes (35% to 57%)**

Decreasing proportion of clients with needs in:

- Family Relationships (52% to 35%)
- Financial Management (52% to 29%)
- Employment Pattern (46% to 22%)
- Living Arrangements (39% to 31%)
- Academic/Vocational Skills (29% to 9%)

Needs that have remained stable:

- Companion/Significant Others (ranging from a low of 52% to a high of 56%)



Based on Community Risk Needs Assessment (CRNA) ratings indicating some or considerable need.

** Note that the substantial increase in attitudes is likely linked to the introduction of 'Strategic Community Supervision' (piloted in 2008, launched in 2011 and fully implemented in 2015) which emphasizes the role of attitudes in changing behaviour. It is possible that the decrease in needs in the other domains is the result of the prioritization of attitudes on the risk-needs assessment, as opposed to a substantial shift in the needs of the client population over the last decade. Nonetheless, what underlies all these changes will continue to be unpacked by the PReV team.

Change in Criminogenic Needs among Individuals in Custody

Between 2010 and 2019 the criminogenic needs of those in custody changed as follows:

Increasing proportion of individuals in custody with needs in:

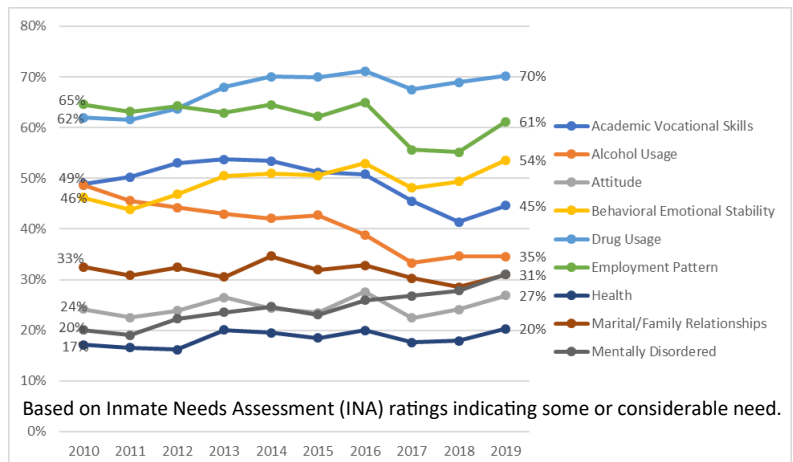
- Drug Use (62% to 70%)
- Behavioral Emotional Stability (46% to 54%)
- Mental Health Issues (20% to 31%)

Decreasing proportion of individuals in custody with needs in:

- Alcohol Usage (49% to 35%)

Needs that have remained stable:

- Employment Pattern (ranging from a low of 55% to a high of 65%)
- Academic/Vocational Skills (ranging from a low of 41% to a high of 54%)
- Marital/Family Relationships (ranging from a low of 29% to a high of 35%)
- Attitudes (ranging from a low of 22% to a high of 28%)
- Health (ranging from a low of 16% to a high of 20%)



Based on Inmate Needs Assessment (INA) ratings indicating some or considerable need.

*Note. Approximately 35% of community client needs are not assessed—mainly those on bail; approximately 61% of individuals in custody needs are not assessed—mainly individuals on remand.

REVEALING RESEARCH & EVALUATION (RREV)

Just as the profile of clients and inmates under supervision has changed over the last 10 years, so has programming, case management services and staff/unit resources.

A few of these advancements are highlighted below!



MEET THE DIRECTOR OF THE PREv!



Dr. Leigh Greiner

Leigh holds a Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology from Carleton University, and prior to working for BC Corrections, carried out research and evaluations with the Correctional Service of Canada and the Federal Department of Justice. Over the course of her career she has gained extensive knowledge of the Risk-Needs-

Responsivity model, risk assessment, and programming in correctional environments. Since joining BC Corrections in 2015, she has strived to apply this knowledge to policies and practices and to ensure that as research evolves and best practices change, BC Corrections follows suit.

The Performance, Research and Evaluation (PREv) Unit

Contact us! If you have comments, questions, or ideas about this publication, please contact:

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