DRUG TREATMENT IN THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICE OF CANADA
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Drug Treatment in the Correctional Service of Canada

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Outline of Presentation

• Overview of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC)

• The importance of drug treatment for offenders

• Drug treatment services offered by the Correctional Service of Canada in institutions and in the community

• The impact of drug treatment on community reintegration and outcomes

• Conclusions – Well-designed programs can improve public safety outcomes

• Closing
Overview of the Correctional Service of Canada

• CSC is responsible for administering the sentences of all adult offenders in Canada who receive a term of 2 years or more, as determined by the courts.

• This represents approximately 13,200 federally incarcerated offenders and 8,000 offenders in the community.

• CSC operates 58 institutions, 16 community correctional centres and 71 parole offices.

• CSC operates an Addictions Research Centre that has a corporate mandate to bring direct focus on the problem of substance abuse among federal offenders.
The Importance of Drug Treatment for Offenders

• It is important to recognize that prison services around the world house the highest concentration of serious substance abusers in society.

• CSC data indicate that 80% of offenders in federal custody have a substance abuse problem.

• There is a very strong relationship between substance abuse and crime. Over 50% of all crime committed by Canadian federal offenders is associated either directly or indirectly with alcohol and other drugs.
1. Systematic Assessment

- CSC operates a *Computerized Assessment of Substance Abuse (CASA)* at all intake centres to identify the nature, extent and severity of offenders’ substance abuse problems.

- The results of the CASA drives the development of program plans for each offender that lead from institutional program needs through community programming and maintenance.

- Of the 80% of offenders who have a substance abuse problem, the CASA results indicate that 34% require high intensity substance abuse programming, 18% require moderate intensity and 26% require low intensity.
2. Substance Abuse Programs – Institutions

- Current programs include high and moderate intensity programs as well as booster programs for release preparation.
- A Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program is available to offenders who are opiate dependent.
- Specialized programs for women and culturally unique groups (e.g., Aboriginal offenders).
3. Substance Abuse Programs – Community

- Low intensity and maintenance programs are available in the community to form a continuum of care from the institution through to the community.
• Studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of CSC’s national substance abuse programs in significantly reducing recidivism.

• A study in 2009 indicated that participants in all intensity levels had lower rates of re-offending in comparison to a untreated comparison group.

• For example, high intensity substance abuse program participants were 45% less likely to return to custody with a new offence and 63% less likely to return with a new violent offence.

• Substance abuse treatment returns $7 to the government for each dollar invested (Conference Board of Canada).
Conclusions

• Substance abuse problems are very prevalent among offenders and closely linked with the commission of crimes.

• Effective substance abuse interventions are those that are research-based, matched to the severity of the offender’s substance abuse problems and take into account the unique programming needs of special populations such as women and Aboriginal offenders.

• Well-designed, well-implemented, and well-managed substance abuse programs can have a significant impact on improving public safety by reducing general recidivism and violent re-offending.