



17th St. & Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
United States of America

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P. 202.458.3000  
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**DRUG TREATMENT IN THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICE OF CANADA  
MR. MARC-ARTHUR HYPPOLITE**



Correctional Service  
Canada

Service correctionnel  
Canada



SAFETY, RESPECT  
AND DIGNITY  
FOR ALL

LA SÉCURITÉ,  
LA DIGNITÉ  
ET LE RESPECT  
POUR TOUS

# *Drug Treatment in the Correctional Service of Canada*

*Presentation to the 46<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of CICAD*

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*Marc-Arthur Hyppolite  
Senior Deputy Commissioner  
Correctional Service Canada*

Canada



# 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.



# Drug Treatment Services Available in the Correctional Service of Canada

## 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.



# Drug Treatment Services Available in the Correctional Service of Canada

## 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).



# Drug Treatment Services Available in the Correctional Service of Canada

## 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.





# The Impact of Drug Treatment on Offender Re-entry

- 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.