Jurisdictional Review of Custody Trends by Offender Characteristics

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Prepared for:

Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety

Submitted: June 30th, 2021

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Introduction

Understanding the trends in custody populations at provincial, national, and global levels is key to developing decisive policies in the criminal justice system. In that sense, a review of trends in custody populations in Saskatchewan and other jurisdictions is needed to provide policy makers and decision makers with strategic insights into Saskatchewan's custody population, including identification of underlying factors contributing to custody population growth and key intervention points. The University of Saskatchewan's Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies has been contracted by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety to conduct a Jurisdictional Review of Custody Trends by Age, Gender, and Ethnicity.

In this review, the key global trends related to custody populations over a twenty-year period (2000-2019) by age group, gender, ethnic background, and offence type¹ will be identified. The research will focus on the trends in select Canadian provinces, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

To this end, we explored the following key research questions:

- 1. Between 2000-2019, what custody trends have emerged in Canada (by province), Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, specifically in relation to total remand and sentenced custody populations?
- 2. Between 2000-2019, what custody trends related to offender age, gender, ethnicity, and offence type emerged in those same jurisdictions?

Methodology

Given the broad scope of the project, an initial focus was placed on compiling publicly available aggregated data from each of the selected jurisdictions in order to begin to describe remand and sentencing trends in age, gender, and ethnicity. It became apparent that the information available varied significantly depending on the jurisdiction. For instance, Canadian remand and sentenced data is reported by Statistics Canada in terms of admissions to custody, which speaks primarily to the flow of individuals into correctional services. Custody admissions in Canada represent the number of entries of persons during a fiscal year (April 1 through March 31) to pre-trial detention, sentenced custody or a community supervision program, regardless of the previous legal status. Correspondence with provincial correctional departments and searches of provincial correctional services websites yielded custody data in the form of average daily counts, which provides more of a 'snapshot-in-time' of remand and sentenced populations.

¹ Data on offence type in relation to remand and sentenced custody populations were not available for most of the jurisdictions. Therefore, our analysis did not include offence type trends.

Admissions to correctional services data is also reported by the UK^2 and is included in this report. Aggregate data concerning average daily counts of persons in custody was obtained from organizations in Australia and New Zealand, each providing average daily count information as of the fiscal year end (June 30th of each year.)

For the most part, data broken down by sentenced and remand populations was obtained, but for each of the jurisdictions (save for New Zealand), any kind of data concerning offense type was not made publicly available and, therefore, exists as a limitation of the project. As such, no comparisons across jurisdictions could be made concerning trends in offense type. Additionally, a full 20 years of data was not available for some jurisdictions, and therefore analysis was conducted based on what was made available for this report. Any gaps or missing data is noted in the report, as well as requests that have been made to jurisdictions for additional data which are still pending.

Once the available data was compiled from each of the jurisdictions, an additional scan of the peer-reviewed literature was conducted to inform the observed patterns identified from the remand and sentenced data. Despite these additional searches of the literature, there were no additional sources identified that reported on novel data.

Table 1. Summary of the Methodology

Jurisdiction	Metric	Data Available	Data Unavailable
Canada	-Admissions -Average Daily Counts (for select provinces)	-Age -Gender -Ethnicity -Remand and Sentenced	-Offense Type -Alberta only reports selected years
United Kingdom	-Admissions	-Age -Gender -Ethnicity -Remand and Sentenced	-Offense Type -Information on Indigenous peoples (i.e., Travelers) -Age was only available in 3 broad categories -Ethnicity data was only available between 2009 and 2017
Australia	-Average Daily Counts	-Age -Gender -Ethnicity	-Offense Type -Breakdown of Sentenced and Remand
New Zealand	-Average Daily Counts	-Age -Gender -Ethnicity	-Offense Type (available, but not reported)

² The count of admissions in the UK was calculated by using a complex statistical procedure which is explained in a guide published by the UK Ministry of Justice here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/981452/Guide_to_Offender_Management_Statistics.pdf (Page 11)

Canada

Remand Admissions in Canada

In Canada, pre-trial detention is referred to as "custodial remand" and is generally administered by the provincial prison system (which deals with individuals sentenced to less than two years in custody or who are awaiting trial or sentencing; Johnson, 2003; Reitano, 2017). Custodial remand is used to hold individuals in custody while waiting for further appearances in court or for further developments on their case (Johnson, 2003).

A Juristat profile on the status of sentenced and remand custodial populations in Canada between 1986 and 2001 indicated that admissions to remand were steadily increasing and represented a larger proportion of those in custody during this time period (Johnson, 2003). Indeed, this trend seems to have continued into the present day as Reitano (2017) indicated that the remand population exceeded the sentenced population for the decade following Johnson's (2003) report. A 35% increase in the remand population across Canada was noted between 2005/2006 and 2015/2016 with the largest increases reported in New Brunswick (+112%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+106%), and Nunavut (+104%). Furthermore, Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and Northwest Territories all report more than half of their custody population as being those in remand (Reitan, 2017). This increase in the remand population has been cited as an issue for provincial and territorial custody centres as remand populations tend to require higher levels of security creating a strain on institutional resources (Johnson, 2003).

All Provinces

Table 2. All Provinces Remand Admissions

	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
Age		_	
18 to 19 years	10,576	5,500	-48%
20 to 24 years	22,119	21,084	-5%
25 to 29 years	17,020	26,391	+55%
30 to 34 years	17,975	25,116	+40%
35 to 39 years	17,582	20,222	+15%
40 to 44 years	11,758	12,903	+10%
45 to 49 years	6,334	9,152	+44%
50 years and over	6,092	12,827	+111%
Gender			
Male	99,380	113,082	+14%
Female	10,802	20,150	+87%
Ethnicity			
Indigenous	19490	40442	+108%
Non-Indigenous	89278	92391	+3%

Age. Overall, there was an increase in admissions to adult remand custody across most of the age groups. The only age category to demonstrate a decrease when comparing admissions from the beginning to the end of the 20-year period, was 18- to 19-year-olds (see Table 2). As seen in Figure A-1, two age groups, 20-24 years and 40-44 years, remained relatively stable. The most populous admission age group changed from 20-24 years in 2000/2001 to 25-29 years in 2018/2019. The least populous admission age group changed from 50 years and older in 2000/2001 to 18-19 years in 2018/19.

Gender. Over the past 20 years, trends have remained relatively stable with males vastly outnumbering females in remand custody. There has been an increase for both males and females between 2000/2001 and 2018/2019 (see Table 2). The increase for females has been relatively smooth, while male admissions have experienced sharper increases and decreases by year (see Figure A-2). Despite the number of females in remand custody nearly doubling over the last 20 years, they still represent a much smaller proportion of the remand admissions as compared to males.

Ethnicity. The number of Indigenous individuals admitted to remand custody has increased over the period from 2000/2001 to 2018/19 (+108%). In 2005/2006, a notable increase over the previous year was reported for total remand admissions (see Figure A-3), with the number of Indigenous individuals admitted to custody increasing by +45%, compared to a +20% increase in non-Indigenous remand custody admissions. This upward increase was maintained in non-Indigenous remand admissions until 2007/2008, after which it has generally trended downwards toward numbers more reminiscent of 2000/2001 to 2004/2005. However, as noted, this is not the case for admissions of Indigenous-identifying individuals, which continued to increase until 2011/2012. This was followed by a reduction in remand admissions until 2015/2016.

Ontario

Table 3. Ontario Remand Admissions

	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
Age			
18-19 years	5,738	1,676	-71%
20 to 24 years	10,434	6,433	-38%
25 to 29 years	7,466	8,084	+8%
30 to 34 years	8,319	7,784	-6%
35 to 39 years	8,244	6,275	-24%
40 to 44 years	5,813	3,941	-32%
45 to 49 years	3,181	2,878	-10%
50 years and over	2,969	4,053	+37%
Median Age on Admission	31	32	+3%
Gender			
Male	46,289	34,832	-25%
Female	5,890	6,299	+7%
Ethnicity			

	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
Indigenous	4,112	5,670	+38%
Non-Indigenous Admissions	48,067	35,461	-26%

Age. Over the past 20 years, there has been an increase of the median age of individuals on remand in Ontario from 31 to 32 year of age (see Table 3). In 2000/2001, the most populous admission age category was 20-24 years and the least populous group was 50 years and older. In 2018/2019, the most populous admission group was 25-29 years of age and the least populous group was 18-19 year olds. While the large majority of age groups experienced a relatively steady decrease in remand admissions, there were two groups (i.e., 25-29 and 50 years+) that experienced an increase in admissions.

Gender. The number of males remanded in Ontario decreased (-25%) from 2000/2001 to 2018/2019, while there was a slight increase in the number of remanded females during the same period. The male remand admissions in Ontario increased between 2000 and 2007 and peaked in the fiscal year 2007/2008 (see Table B-2). Since 2008, the number of male remanded inmates has steadily decreased. The remanded female admissions in Ontario fluctuated throughout the years. Similar to the male admissions, the number of females peaked in the fiscal year 2007/2008 and steadily decreased since then.

Ethnicity. Between 2000/2001 and 2018/2019, there was an increase in Indigenous remand admissions (38%) and decrease in non-Indigenous remand admissions (-26%) in Ontario (see Table 3). Despite the overall increase in the number of remanded Indigenous inmates in this period, this number peaked in the fiscal year 2011/2012 and started to decrease since then (see Figure B-3). Accordingly, there was a 15% decrease in the number of remanded Indigenous persons since 2011/2012. On the other hand, the non-Indigenous remand admissions peaked in 2007/2008 and steadily decreased since then.

Alberta

Note: A data request has been made to Alberta Correctional Services for additional data regarding remand and sentenced counts for age, ethnicity, and gender categories. Alberta does not include a table due to limited data. Figures of the data available are included in Appendix C.

Age. Statistics Canada only provides adult remand custody admissions by age for Alberta for the years 2015/2016 to 2018/2019. Over those three years, there was an overall decrease in the number of remand admissions from 26,172 in 2015/2015 to 20,273 in 2018/2019 (see Figure C-1). While some changes were bigger in magnitude than others, all age groups experienced a decrease in remand admissions over the three-year period of available data.

Gender. Similar to the trends for age, there was a decrease for both males and females in the three-year period of data reported by Statistics Canada for remand custody admissions in Alberta. As seen in the Figure C-2, males vastly outnumbered females in remand custody.

Ethnicity. Admissions data by ethnicity for Alberta is also limited, and only provided for the years 2005/2006 to 2011/2012 and 2016/2017 to 2018/2019. Remand admissions steadily

increased for individuals with Indigenous identities from 2005/2006 to 2011/2012; the next reported year of data (2016/2017) represented a 17% increase. Non-Indigenous admissions decreased overall during both time periods.

British Columbia

Table 4. British Columbia Remand Admissions

	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
Age			
18-19 years	921	291	-68%
20 to 24 years	2,273	1,534	-33%
25 to 29 years	2,245	2,409	+7%
30 to 34 years	2,311	2,725	+18%
35 to 39 years	2,039	2,289	+12%
40 to 44 years	1,236	1,359	+10%
45 to 49 years	609	1,097	+80%
50 years and over	516	1,230	+138%
Median Age on Admission	31	34	+10%
Gender			
Male	10,844	11,605	+7%
Female	1,341	1,329	-1%
Ethnicity			
Indigenous	2,474	4,245	+72%
Non-Indigenous Admissions	9,711	8,657	-11%

Age. Over the past 20 years, there has been an increase in the median age of individuals in custodial remand in British Columbia from 31 years in 2000/2001 to 34 in 2018/2019 (see Table 4). While the remand admissions for individuals aged 25 to 44 years have remained relatively stable over the past 20 years, the increase in median age seems to be driven by decreases in admissions for those who are 18-19 and 20-24 and large increases in the 45-49 and 50 and over age groups (see Table D-1). As seen in Table 3, the least populous admission age group changed from 50 and over in 2000/2001 to 18 and 19 year-olds in 2018/2019. The most populous admission group changed from 25-29 years in 2000/2001 to 30-34 years in 2018/2019.

Gender. Males vastly outnumbered females in average daily admissions (see Table 4). Similar trends for males and females emerged between 2000/2001 and 2018/19 with female admissions remaining steady and male admissions slightly increasing.

Ethnicity. Between 2000/2001 and 2018/2019, there was an increase for Indigenous remand admissions in British Columbia and a decrease for non-Indigenous admissions (see Table 4).

Manitoba

Table 5. Manitoba Admissions to Remand

	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
Age			
18-19 years	558	837	+50%
20 to 24 years	1,719	2,822	+64%
25 to 29 years	1,198	3,174	+165%
30 to 34 years	1,172	2,656	+127%
35 to 39 years	1,048	1,883	+80%
40 to 44 years	636	1,129	+78%
45 to 49 years	330	697	+111%
50 years and over	294	711	+142%
Median Age on Admission	30	31	+3%
Gender			
Male	6,157	11,093	+80%
Female	798	2,831	+255%
Ethnicity			
Indigenous	4,233	10,583	+150%
Non-Indigenous Admissions	2,722	3,342	+23%

Age. Over the past 20 years, there has been an increase in every age category in Manitoba. Overall, trends have remained relatively stable in Manitoba with many of the age categories maintaining their proportion of remand admissions between 2000/2001 and 2018/2019 (see Table 5). In 2018/2019, the 25-29 year age group surpassed the 20-24 year age group which had been the most populous admission from 2000/2001 to 2017/2018. The least populous groups were 45-49 years and those 50 years and older. Those over 50 years of age were the least populous from 2000/2001 to 2013/2014 when it surpassed those who were 45-49 year of age; in 2018/2019, these two groups were nearly identical (see Figure E-1).

Gender. There were increases in remand admissions for both males (+80%) and females (+225%) over the 20-year period.

Ethnicity. There was an increase for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous remand admissions in Manitoba, but Indigenous individuals experienced a much larger increase (150%) as compared to non-Indigenous individuals (23%; see Table 5). Over the last 20 years both groups experienced a relatively smooth increase, although the slope of the increase was much steeper for the Indigenous groups.

Saskatchewan

Table 6. Saskatchewan Admissions to Remand

	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
Age			
18-19 years	1,261	576	-54%
20 to 24 years	2,485	1,662	-33%
25 to 29 years	1,652	1,898	+15%
30 to 34 years	1,383	1,637	+18%
35 to 39 years	1,348	1,165	-14%
40 to 44 years	706	696	-1%
45 to 49 years	362	336	-7%
50 years and over	314	395	+26%
Median Age on Admission	27	30	+11%
Gender			
Male	9,113	6,814	-25%
Female	435	1,549	+256%
Ethnicity			
Indigenous	7,285	6,308	-13%
Non-Indigenous Admissions	2,100	1,907	-9%

Age. There was a sharp decrease in remand admissions between 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 and then a steady increase for those aged 25-29, 30-34, and 50 years and older (see Table 6). All other groups experienced a decrease in that timeframe. These increases in some of the older age groups seem to have contributed to the increase in median age on admission by 3 years. The most populous admission group in 2000/2001 was 20-24 year olds and the least populous group was those 50 years and older. The most populous admission group in 2018/2019 had changed to those 25-29 years of age and the least populous group was 45-49 year olds.

Gender. Over the past 20 years, there has been an overall decrease in male remand admissions and an increase in admissions for females. Looking more closely at the trend, for males, there was a sharp decrease in admissions between 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 and then a steady increase from 2001/2002 to 2018/2019 (see Table F-2). Female admissions had a steady but stark increase between 2000/2001 and 2018/2019 with a notable increase beginning in 2013/2014 (see Table 6).

Ethnicity. Overall, both groups (e.g., Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons) experienced a decrease in remand admissions between 2000/2001 and 2018/2019. While there was a larger decrease for Indigenous individuals, they still had substantially more remand admissions than non-Indigenous individuals.

Sentenced Admissions in Canada

Sentenced admissions refers to individuals who are convicted of a crime and subsequently detained (Statistics Canada, 2021). After conviction, these individuals are sentenced and sent to the appropriate detention facility. Inmates will be transferred to a federal facility if they are sentenced to more than two years and a provincial/territorial facility if the sentence is less than two years (Statistics Canada, 2021).

All Provinces

Table 7. All Provinces Sentenced Admissions

	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
Age			
18 to 19 years	4,355	1,308	-70%
20 to 24 years	12,126	9,938	-18%
25 to 29 years	10,294	14,097	+37%
30 to 34 years	11,047	13,634	+23%
35 to 39 years	10,818	11,198	+4%
40 to 44 years	7,827	7,650	-2%
45 to 49 years	4,242	5,672	+34%
50 years and over	4,289	8,807	+105%
Gender			
Male	60,216	62,973	+5%
Female	5,624	9,330	+66%
Ethnicity			
Indigenous	9,603	21,263	+121%
Non-Indigenous Admissions	55,161	50,630	-8%

Age. Over the last 20 years, there has been an increase in sentenced admissions for those aged 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 45-49, and 50+ years of age (see Table 7). There was a decrease in admissions for those 18-19, 20-24, and 40-44 years of age. In 2000/2001, the most populous admission age group was 20-24 years of age and the least populous was 45-49 years of age. In 2018/2019, the most populous admission group had changed to 25-29 years of age and the least populous remained the same.

Gender. Both males (+5%) and females (+66%) experienced an increase in sentenced admissions between 2000/2001 and 2018/2019 and followed a similar pattern as ethnicity (see Table 6).

Ethnicity. While non-Indigenous sentenced admissions decreased over the past 20 years, Indigenous admissions increased by 121% (see Table 7). There was an increase for both groups observed in 2005/2006, a decrease in 2012/2013, an increase in 2016/2017, and then a steady decrease after that year (see Figure A-6).

Ontario

Table 8. Ontario Sentenced Admissions

	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
Age			
18 to 19 years	2,481	308	-88%
20 to 24 years	5,944	2,381	-60%
25 to 29 years	4,553	3,583	-21%
30 to 34 years	5,132	3,607	-30%
35 to 39 years	5,260	2,960	-44%
40 to 44 years	3,775	2,019	-47%
45 to 49 years	1,968	1,556	-21%
50 years and over	1,885	2,490	+32%
Median Age on Admission	29	30	+3%
Gender			
Male	28,328	16,908	-40%
Female	2,671	1,997	-25%
Ethnicity			
Indigenous	2,688	1,998	-26%
Non-Indigenous Admissions	28,211	16,907	-40%

Age. Over the past 20 years, all age groups have experienced a decrease in sentenced admissions with the exception of those 50 years and older (see Table 8). The year 2002/2003 was when a sharp decrease in admissions for those 18-19 years of age and a steady increase for those 50 and over began (see Figure B-4). The most populous admission age group was 20-24 year-olds in 2000/2001. With the sharp decrease in young adults in custody, 25-29 year-olds became the most populous admission group by 2018/2019 and those aged 18 to 19 years the least populous group.

Gender. Between 2000/2001 and 2018/2019, there has been an overall decrease for both male and female sentenced admissions in Ontario. The downward trend began for both gender groups in 2011/2012 and continued to decrease until 2018/2019 (see Figure B-5).

Ethnicity. Both ethnicity categories experienced a decrease in sentenced admissions over the past 20 years, although non-Indigenous admissions experienced a larger reduction with a more rapid decline starting in 2011/2012. While the changes for Indigenous admissions seem rather smooth overall, a downward trend did begin in 2011/2012 as well (see Figure B-6).

Alberta

Note: A data request has been made to Alberta Correctional Services for additional data regarding remand and sentenced counts for age, ethnicity, and gender categories. Alberta does not include a table due to limited data. Figures of the data available are included in Appendix C.

Age. Between 2016/2017 and 2018/2019, there was a reduction in all age categories. As there are only three years available, it is very difficult to identify any significant trends but, of note, 18-19 year olds remained the least populous admission group during that time period while the most populous admission group changed from 25-29 to 30-34 years of age.

Gender. Data for Alberta was only available from 2005/2006 to 2011/2012 and 2016/2017 to 2018/2019 (see Figure C-5). During that first time period, there was a very slight decrease for males and an increase for female sentenced admissions. For males, there was an increase in 2008/2009 and a decrease beginning in 2010/2011. For females, there was a steady increase throughout the time period. It is unknown what numbers looked like between 2012 and 2016, but both groups had an increased number of admissions in 2016/2017 as compared to the last available numbers in 2011/2012 with a more noticeable increase for males compared to females. Both groups experienced a decrease in admissions between 2016/2017 and 2018/2019 with a sharper decrease among males compared to females.

Ethnicity. Data for Alberta was only available from 2005/2006 to 2011/2012 and 2016/2017 to 2018/2019. During the first time period, there was an increase in Indigenous sentenced admissions and a reduction in non-Indigenous admissions. For both groups there was an increase in 2008/2009 which continued to trend upwards for Indigenous individuals but decreased in 2010/2011 for non-Indigenous admissions. When reporting resumed in 2016/2017, numbers were higher for both groups as compared to 2011/2012. Both groups experienced a reduction between 2016/2017 and 2018/2019 at approximately the same rate (see Figure C-6).

British Columbia

Table 9. British Columbia Sentenced Admissions

	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
Age			
18 to 19 years	659	121	-82%
20 to 24 years	1,799	1,012	-44%
25 to 29 years	1,730	1,684	-3%
30 to 34 years	1,776	1,790	+1%
35 to 39 years	1,550	1,607	+4%
40 to 44 years	983	1,053	+7%
45 to 49 years	526	832	+58%
50 years and over	481	1,045	+117%
Median Age on Admission	31	34	+10%
Gender			
Male	8,823	8,282	-6%
Female	697	862	+24%
Ethnicity			
Indigenous	1,931	3,046	+58%
Non-Indigenous Admissions	7,589	6,064	-20%

Age. With the exception of those under the age of 29, all other age bands experienced an increase in sentenced admissions between 2000/2001 and 2018/2019 (see Table 9). In 2000/2001, the most populous admission group was 20-24 year-olds and the least populous group was those 50 years of age and older. In 2018/2019, the most populous admission group was 30-34 year-olds and the least populous group was those 18-19 years of age. The over 50 year age group experienced a steady increase while those 18-19 experienced a steady decrease over this time period.

Gender. Over the past 20 years, there was a slight decrease in sentenced admissions for males and an increase for females. For both groups, there were noticeable reductions in admissions in 2010/2011 and 2017/2018 (see Figure D-5). Admissions rates peaked in 2016/2017 for males while the trends remained fairly steady for females with a slight downturn beginning in 2017/2018.

Ethnicity. Overall, there was an increase in Indigenous sentenced admissions and a decrease in non-Indigenous admissions. For Indigenous sentenced admissions, there was a steady increase between 2004/2005 and 2016/2017 (see Figure D-6). There was a downward trend in Indigenous sentenced admissions beginning in 2017/2018. For non-Indigenous sentenced admissions, there was an increase between 2002/2003 and 2007/2008. There was then a decrease from 2008/2009 to 2010/2011 and another increase after that ending in 2016/2017 where another downward trend emerged.

Manitoba

Table 10. Manitoba Sentenced Admissions

	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
Age			
18 to 19 years	234	240	+3%
20 to 24 years	709	1,324	+87%
25 to 29 years	533	1,479	+177%
30 to 34 years	486	1,317	+171%
35 to 39 years	431	912	+112%
40 to 44 years	250	576	+130%
45 to 49 years	118	353	+199%
50 years and over	140	399	+185%
Median Age on Admission	29	30	+3%
Gender			
Male	2,734	5,501	+101%
Female	167	1,104	+561%
Ethnicity			
Indigenous	1,854	5,057	+173%
Non-Indigenous Admissions	1,047	1,548	+48%

Age. Between 2000/2001 and 2018/2019, there was an increase in sentenced admissions for all age groups (see Table 10). In 2000/2001, the most populous admission group was 20-24

year-olds and the least populous group was 45-49 year-olds. In 2018/2019, the most populous admission group was 25-29 year-olds and the least populous group was 18-19 year-olds.

Gender. There has been a steady increase in sentenced admissions for both males and females over the past 20 years (see Table 10). It is worth noting that the increase of +561% for females was the largest increase for any category in Canada and appears to have been a steady increase beginning in 2007/2008. Overall, males appear to have had a sharper initial increase, but a noticeable decrease in admissions in 2018/2019.

Ethnicity. There has been a steady increase in sentenced admissions for both ethnicity categories over the past 20 years, although Indigenous admissions have been increasing at a much faster rate than non-Indigenous admissions (see Table 10).

Saskatchewan

Table 11. Saskatchewan Sentenced Admissions

	2000/2001	2018/2019	% Change
Age			
18 to 19 years	317	182	-43%
20 to 24 years	752	783	+4%
25 to 29 years	551	1,031	+87%
30 to 34 years	497	870	+75%
35 to 39 years	452	673	+49%
40 to 44 years	299	439	+47%
45 to 49 years	169	255	+51%
50 years and over	175	324	+85%
Median Age on Admission	29	31	+7%
Gender			
Male	2,931	3,863	+32%
Female	288	692	+140%
Ethnicity			
Indigenous	2,453	3,376	+38%
Non-Indigenous Admissions	736	1,094	+49%

Age. With the exception of those 18-19 years of age, there was an increase in sentenced admissions across all age bands (see Table 11). In 2000/2001, the most populous admission group was 20-24 year-olds and the least populous group was 45-49 year-olds. In 2018/2019, the most populous admission group was 25-29 year-olds and the least populous group was still 45-49 year-olds.

Gender. There was an increase in sentenced admissions for both males and females beginning in 2008/2009 (see Table 11). While the increase for females was relatively steady, males experienced a sharper increase from 2008/2009 to 2010/2011.

Ethnicity. There was an increase in sentenced admissions for both ethnicity groups beginning in 2008/2009 (see Table 11). Trends for both groups were extremely similar. It is worth noting that Saskatchewan is the only province included in this review where the increase in admissions over time for non-Indigenous admissions was higher than the increase for Indigenous admissions.

United Kingdom

The data on the custody population characteristics in the United Kingdom were gathered from the publicly available Offender Management Statistics database which consists of data from England and Wales. Therefore, the findings that we reached did not include the custody populations in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The number of inmates given in this section are named as "admission counts" in the Offender Management Statistics. The admission counts represent the number of individuals who either enter custody or who have a change in their custody status in the reporting period.

According to the Guide to Offender Management Statistics published by the U.K. Ministry of Justice, the prison population grew rapidly between 1993 and 2008, at an average of 4% a year, and then began to decrease with the exception of an increase in 2011.

This rapid increase was explained in the Guide by citing the following reasons:

- Increases in the number of people sentenced to immediate custody from 1993 to 2002;
- Increases in the average custodial sentence length and increased use of indeterminate sentences; and
- Increases in the number of offenders recalled to prison following breaches of their licence conditions, along with increases in the average length of time these offenders spent in prison once recalled.

The decreases in the prison population since 2008 were explained in the Guide by the following policy and population changes:

- The introduction of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, which changed sentencing and offender management in ways which helped to reduce growth in the prison population.
- Beginning from 2012, a falling remand population and a continued decline in the number of inmates under the age of 18.
- The introduction of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act in December 2012, which restricted the use of remand for offenders who would be unlikely to receive a custodial sentence.

The immediate but temporary increase in the number of prison population in 2011 was attributed in the Guide to the public disorder seen in UK cities from August 6 to 9, 2011.

United Kingdom – Remand

In the U.K. Offender Management Statistics, remand admissions refer to prisoners in custody on remand who are awaiting commencement or continuation of trial prior to verdict. This category also includes prisoners that are convicted but are still waiting to be sentenced.

Table 12. United Kingdom Admissions to Remand

	2001	2020	% Change
Age			
15 to 17 years	6,201	689	-89%
18 to 20 years	18,475	4,082	-78%
Adults	75,642	42,514	-44%
Gender			
Male	91,847	43,945	-52%
Female	8,471	3,340	-61%
Ethnicity	2009	2017	
Asian	2,303	2,054	-11%
Black	4,710	3,586	-24%
Mixed	1,001	937	-6%
White	21,106	18,780	-11%
Other incl. Chinese	911	465	-49%

Age. The UK age data was available for three groups: 15 to 17 years, 18 to 20 years, and Adults (i.e., 21 and older). The remanded population in every age group decreased remarkably between 2001 and 2020, but the rate of this decrease was higher among younger age groups 15 to 20 years; see Table 12). Specifically, there was an 89% decrease in remand admissions between those 15 and 17 years of age and a 78% decrease in those between 18 and 20 years of age. Remand admissions among adults older than 20 years of age decreased by 44%. After a slight increase from 2001 to 2003, the number of remanded prisoners in all age groups has steadily decreased since then (see Figure G-1). Specifically, there was a very sharp decrease in the number of remanded prisoners in all age groups between 2015 and 2017.

Gender. Male and female remanded populations in U.K. prisons decreased remarkably from 2001 to 2020, with a slightly higher rate of decrease among females (-61%) compared to males (-52%; see Table 12). Between 2001 and 2008, the remand population for both gender groups was relatively stable (see Figure G-2). Since 2009, there has been a steady decrease in both groups, with a sharper decrease occurring among males up until 2016 at which time the rate of decline slowed down. Interestingly, the highest decrease was seen in both gender groups between 2014 and 2016, with the decrease among males being most noticeable.

Ethnicity. Five ethnic groups (i.e., Asian, Black, Mixed, White, and Other) based on the 2001 UK Census were used in the analysis of the U.K. ethnicity trends. Notably, the "other" category includes Chinese populations. The ethnicity was not known for about 1 in 5 offenders imprisoned in the period analyzed. Further, data on the ethnicity of remanded and sentenced prisoners were only available from 2009 and 2017 (see Figure G-3). During this period, there was a decrease in the number of remanded individuals from all ethnicity groups (i.e., Asian: -11; Black: -24%; Mixed: -6%; White: -11%; Other including Chinese: -49%). In all ethnicity groups,

the number of sentenced prisoners slightly increased from 2009 to 2011, and sharp decreases occurred from 2011 to 2012 and from 2015 to 2017. Over the 8-year period, the highest decrease in the remand population was seen in the "Other Including Chinese" ethnicity category (-48%) and was followed by the decrease in the number of Black persons remanded (-24%).

United Kingdom – Sentenced

In the U.K. Offender Management Statistics database, the number of sentenced admissions refers to those held in custody as a result of receiving a sentence in a criminal court. Persons committed for default of a fine are also included in these numbers.

	2001	2020	% Change
Age			
15 to 17 years	5,905	416	-93%
18 to 20 years	15,202	2,563	-83%
Adults	70,855	37,305	-47%
Gender			
Male	84,661	36,974	-56%
Female	7,301	3,310	-54%
Ethnicity	2009	2017	
Asian	3,946	3,758	-5%
Black	6,800	6,001	-12%
Mixed	1,869	1,704	-9%
White	50,933	45,505	-11%
Other incl. Chinese	1,506	776	-48%

Age. In the U.K., over the last 20 years, there has been a remarkable decrease in the yearly sentenced prison population (see Table 13). The decrease in the sentenced population in all age groups was greater than the decrease in the remand populations. After a slight increase from 2001 to 2003, the number of sentenced prisoners in all age groups has steadily decreased since then, with the exception of a peak in 2008 (see Figure G-4). Specifically, there was a very dramatic decline in the number of young prisoners aged 15 to 17 years (-93%) and 18 to 20 years (-83%). Further, the sentenced adult prison population decreased at a higher rate (-47%) compared to most other jurisdictions included in this scan.

Gender. Over the 20-year period, male and female sentenced populations in U.K. prisons decreased at a similar rate (-56% and -54% respectively; see Table 13). Between 2001 and 2008, the sentenced inmate populations in both gender groups were relatively stable (see Figure G-5). Since 2009, there has been a steady decrease in both groups. Interestingly, the highest decrease was seen in the last year (from 2019 to 2020) in both gender groups. Compared with the figures from 2019 to 2020, the number of sentenced prisoners decreased by 25% in the male group and 35% in the female group.

Ethnicity. Five ethnic groups (i.e., Asian, Black, Mixed, White, and Other) based on the 2001 UK Census were used in the analysis of the U.K. ethnicity trends.

The "other" category includes Chinese populations. The ethnicity was not known for about 1 in 5 offenders imprisoned in the period analyzed. Further, data on the ethnicity of remanded and sentenced prisoners were available only for the period between 2009 and 2017. During this period, there was a decrease in the number of sentenced inmates from all ethnicity groups (i.e., Asian: -5%; Black: -12%; Mixed: -9%; White: -11%; Other including Chinese: -48%; see Table 13). In all ethnicity groups, the number of sentenced prisoners slightly increased from 2009 to 2011, and then, steadily decreased from 2012 to 2017 (see Figure G-6). Over the 8-year period, the highest decrease was seen in the "Other Including Chinese" ethnicity category (-48%). The most stable group of sentenced prisoners during this period were Asians (-5%).

Australia

The data on the custody population characteristics in Australia was retrieved from the "Prisoners in Australia" database of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) which contains annual national information on prisoners in custody. The data was gathered by the ABS through the National Prisoner Census, which is a census of all persons in the legal custody of adult corrective services in all states and territories as of June 30th of each year. The available data does not allow for analysis of the remanded and sentenced prison population separately based on the age, ethnicity, and gender variables or at a jurisdictional level. Therefore, the trends in these variables were analyzed at the aggregate level (i.e., the trends in the total prison population in Australia).

Over the 20-year period from 2000 to 2020, there has been a substantial increase in almost all age, gender, and ethnicity groups (see Table 14). When the trend is more closely analyzed, it is observed that the number of adult prisoners in Australian prisons has steadily increased since 2011 with the number of prisoners falling for the first time in 2020.

Table 14. Australia Prison Admissions

	2000 / 2001	2020/2021	% Change
Age ¹			
Under 18 years	52	-	
18-19 years	957	674	-30%
20-24 years	4,650	4,772	+3%
25-29 years	4,775	7,248	+52%
30-34 years	3,729	7,507	+101%
35-39 years	2,695	6,559	+143%
40-44 years	1,879	4,991	+166%
45-49 years	1,167	3,612	+210%
50-54 years	848	2,236	+164%
55-59 years	459	1,378	+200%
60-64 years	281	849	+202%
65+ years	218	1,227	+463%
Gender			
Male	20,329	37,908	+86%

	2000 / 2001	2020/2021	% Change
Female	1,385	3,144	+127%
Ethnicity	2010-2011	2019-2020	
Indigenous	7,507	12,456	+66%
Non-Indigenous	20,747	30,200	+46%

¹From 2019, in all states and territories persons remanded or sentenced to adult custody are aged 18 years and over. Persons under 18 years are treated as juveniles in most Australian courts and are only remanded or sentenced to custody in adult prisons in exceptional circumstances. In Queensland, prior to 2018, 'adult' referred to persons aged 17 years and over. From February 2018 onwards, persons aged 17 years are being transitioned from adult correctional facilities into the Queensland juvenile justice system over a two-year period. In 2019, there were no 17 year-olds in Queensland adult correctional facilities.

²The ethnicity data were available beginning from the fiscal year 2010-2011

Age. Over the 20 years from 2000 to 2020, there was in increase in the prison population in all age groups except for those 18 and 19 years of age (see Table 14). The number of persons 18-19 years of age who were admitted to custody in Australia decreased by 30%. Interestingly, the increase in the number of inmates were higher in older age groups, with the highest increase being 463% among those 65 years of age and older.

Gender. The increase in the number of female prisoners (127%) over the 20-year period was remarkably higher than the increase in the number of male prisoners (86%) in Australia (see Table 14). Yet, the gap between the two groups dramatically increased since 2012 and the number of male inmates was 11 times higher than that of female inmates in 2020 (see Figure H-2).

Ethnicity. The ethnicity data were available beginning from the fiscal year 2010-2011. Since 2010, the number of Indigenous offenders admitted to Australian corrections (66%) increased at a remarkably higher rate than the number of non-Indigenous offenders (46%; see Table 14).

New Zealand

Data from New Zealand was collected from publicly available Corrections Volumes reports. Similar to Canada, the prison population in New Zealand is comprised of individuals who are convicted and serving sentences and those awaiting trial—referred to as sentenced and remand, respectively. Those individuals on remand generally remain in an institution pending the conclusion of their criminal case when they will either be released into the community or sentenced. Those who are sentenced have been convicted and ordered to serve time in an institution. In New Zealand, sentencing is divided into long-term and short-term sentences. Short-term sentences are considered to be less than 24 months and individuals are eligible for release after they have served half of the sentence. Long-term sentences are more than 24 months and individuals are eligible for parole after serving one-third of their sentence. Those sentences designated as "indeterminate" indicates a life sentence and, even if released, the individuals are on life parole and can be recalled at any time.

New Zealand - Remand

Table 15. New Zealand Remand Admissions

	2000 / 2001	2020/2021	% Change
Age			
< 20 years	73	64	-12%
20-24 years	175	452	+158%
25-29 years	151	719	+376%
30-39 years	262	1,263	+382%
40-49 years	111	642	+478%
50+ years	29	268	+824%
Gender			
Male	774	3,156	+308%
Female	41	251	+512%
Ethnicity			
Māori	445	1917	+331%
Non-Indigenous	378	1492	+295%

Age. Over the past 20 years, the remand prisoner population in New Zealand seems to have increased dramatically for all groups with the exception of those under 20 years of age (see Table 15). The decrease for those under 20 years of age began in 2009/2010 and all other age groups seem to have experienced a steady increase since 2000/2001 (see Figure I-1). Those 30-39 years of age experienced the largest increase beginning in 2016/2017, solidifying their lead as the most populous admission group. The least populous group in 2000/2001 was those 50 years and older and changed to those under 20 years in 2020/2021.

Gender. As with age, both genders seem to have experienced a major increase over the past 20 years. Both male and female remand prisoner populations seem to have been increasing relatively steadily with major increases for both groups in 2004/2005 and 2014/2015 (see Figure I-2). Males experienced noticeable increases between 2012/2013 and 2018/2019 and females experienced a noticeably steady increase from 2013/2014.

Ethnicity. There were also dramatic increases in remand prisoner populations for both ethnicity groups. Both groups experienced very similar trends with steady growth over the past 20 years and with the largest increase beginning in 2012/2013 for both groups (see Figure I-3). The Māori prison population remained larger than the non-Indigenous group throughout the 20 years.

New Zealand - Sentenced

Table 16. New Zealand Sentenced Admissions

	2000 / 2001	2020/2021	% Change
Age			
< 20 years	376	70	-81%
20-24 years	1,057	559	-47%
25-29 years	956	957	+0.1%
30-39 years	1,545	1,835	+19%
40-49 years	701	1,281	+83%
50+ years	401	1,275	+218%
Gender			
Male	4,809	5,614	+17%
Female	247	363	+47%
Ethnicity			
Māori	2567	2990	+16%
Non-Indigenous	2502	2987	+19%

Age. With the exception of those under 24 years of age, all other age groups experienced an increase in the sentenced prisoner population (see Table 16). Those under 20 and 20-24 both had a downward trend in sentenced prisoner rates beginning in 2010/2011 (see Figure I-4). Those aged 30-39 remained the most populous admission group over the 20-year time period. The 50 years and older group experienced a very notable increase in sentenced admissions over the 20 year time period (+218%). In 2000/2001, they were the least populous group and then, by 2020/2021, they were essentially the second most populous admission group.

Gender. Both genders experienced a relatively steady increase beginning in 2000/2001 up until 2018/2019 when a downward trend in the sentenced prisoner population occurred. Despite a +47% increase over the past 20 years, the female sentenced population is still quite small as compared to the male population.

Ethnicity. Trends in sentenced prisoner populations were nearly identical for both Māori and non-Indigenous prisoners. The Māori sentenced prisoner population was noticeably lower than the non-Indigenous population in 2007/2008 and from 2016/2017 to 2018/2019.

Key Trends

In summary, following key trends were observed across the jurisdictions included in this scan with respect to age, gender, and ethnicity:

• Across the majority of jurisdictions, there has been a shift in age demographics where those 18 to 24 years of age have experienced a decrease in both sentenced and remand

admissions over the last 20 years and those 25 to 30 year of age have experienced an increase (with the exception of Manitoba remand and sentenced admissions, the 20-24 age group of sentenced admissions in Saskatchewan, and the 20-24 age group for sentenced admissions in New Zealand). Additionally, while still a relatively small proportion of the overall prison population, the 50+ age band has experienced a significant increase in many jurisdictions over the past 20 years. A trend towards an older overall prison population brings unique considerations for their care (Kerodal et al., 2020).

- In the majority of jurisdictions, there was an increase in female remand and sentenced admissions—and often a very large increase. However, there were a few exceptions to this trend. For remand admissions, Alberta, British Columbia, and the United Kingdom all experienced a decrease in female admissions. Ontario, Manitoba, and the United Kingdom all experienced decreases in sentenced admissions for females. While females were a much less populous group than males, the increase was still quite large and represents an increase in demand for resources specific to female incarcerated individuals.
- Indigenous remand and sentenced admissions increased for all jurisdictions with the exception of remand admissions in Saskatchewan³. In fact, over the past 20 years, Indigenous admissions have been increasing for remand and sentenced in the majority of jurisdictions even when there has been a decrease in non-Indigenous admissions in the jurisdiction. This trend has important implications for the continued overrepresentation of Indigenous individuals in Canada's incarcerated population.
- The United Kingdom seems to be an exception to many of these trends as all categories surveyed in the UK decreased over the past 20 years. These changes could be explained due to a decreasing population in the UK and unique legislation (the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008; the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders [LASPO] Act 2012) that was introduced during this time period.
- The largest increases in Canada were noted for Manitoba in both the sentenced and remand categories. Additionally, exceptionally large increases were noted for remand admissions in New Zealand. These large increases merit further examination to determine the potential causes.

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³ The United Kingdom does not report an Indigenous ethnicity category

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Appendices

Appendix A: Canada Adult Custody Trends (2000-2019)

Remand

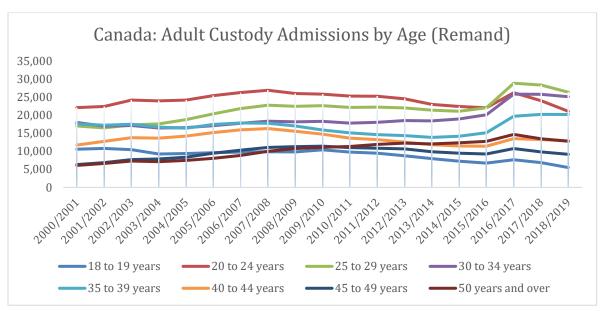


Figure A-1. Canada: Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Remand)

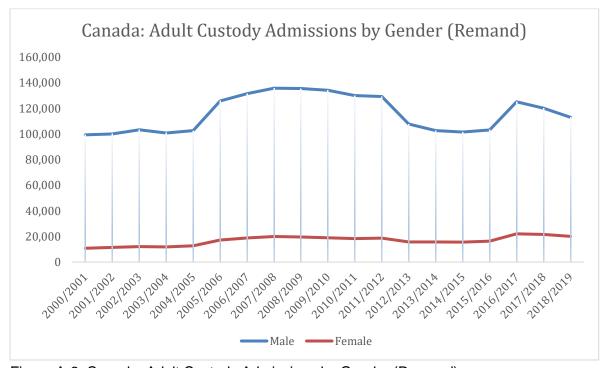


Figure A-2. Canada: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Remand)

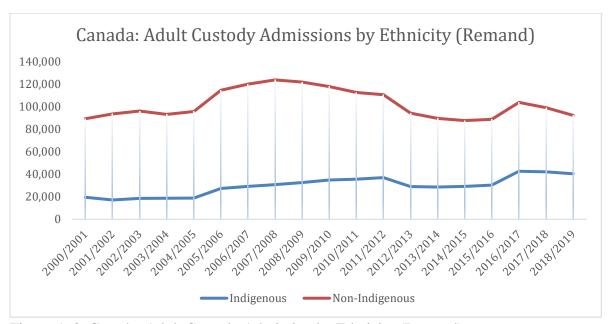


Figure A-3. Canada: Adult Custody Admission by Ethnicity (Remand)

Sentenced

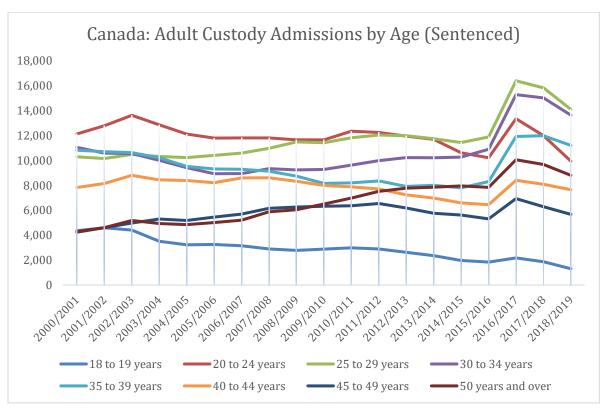


Figure A-4. Canada: Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Sentenced)

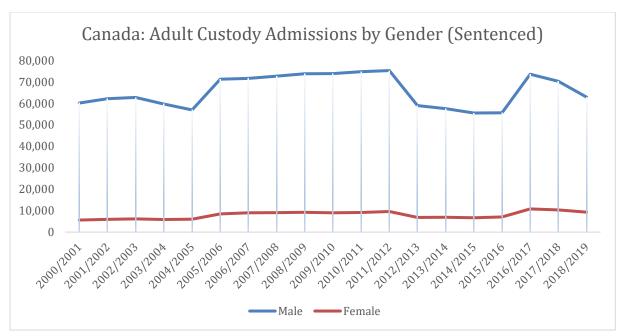


Figure A-5. Canada: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Sentenced)

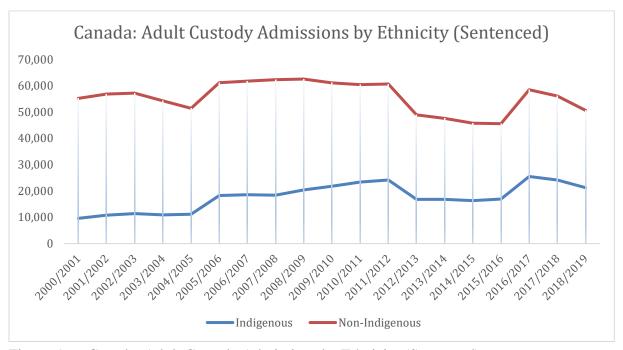


Figure A-6. Canada: Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Sentenced)

Appendix B: Ontario Adult Custody Trends (2000-2019)

Remand

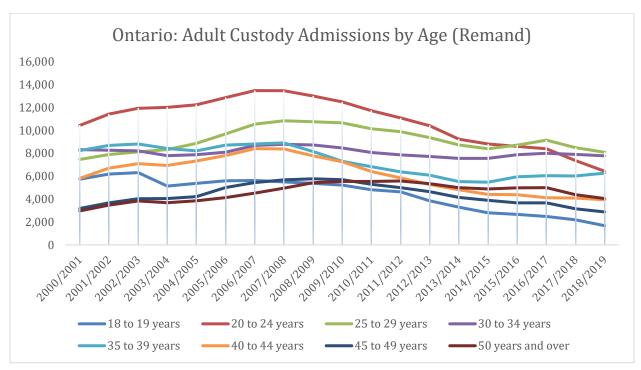


Figure B-1. Ontario: Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Remand)

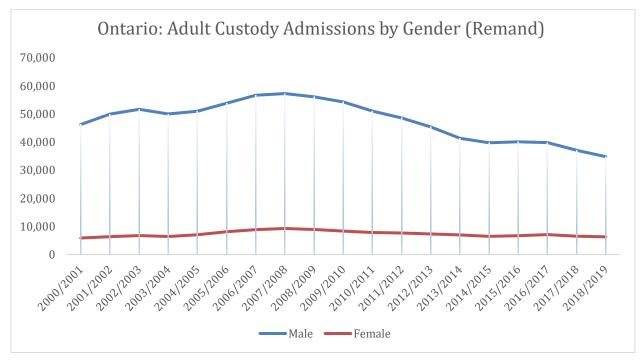


Figure B-2. Ontario: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Remand)

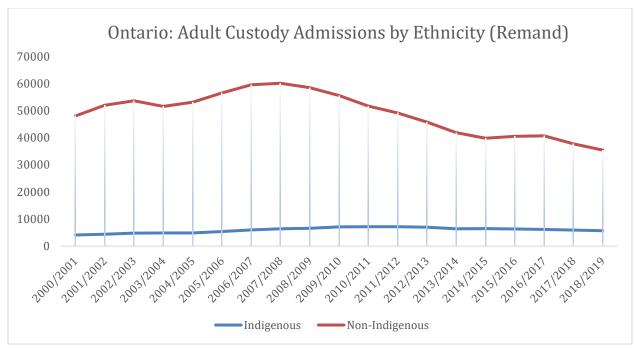


Figure B-3. Ontario: Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Remand)

Sentenced

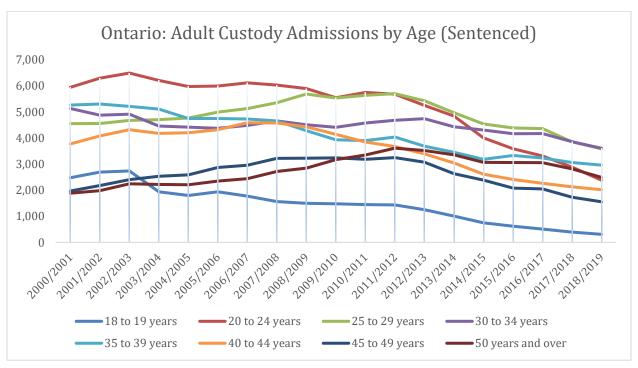


Figure B-4. Ontario: Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Sentenced)

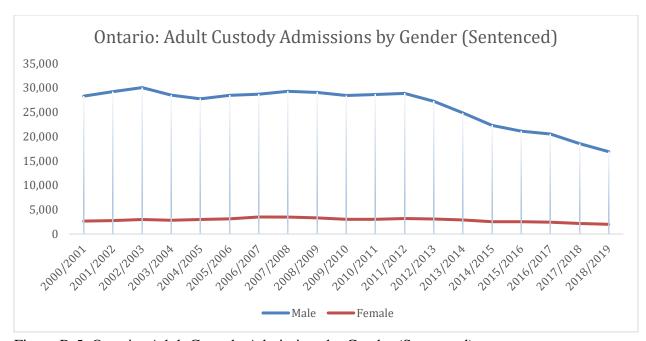


Figure B-5. Ontario: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Sentenced)

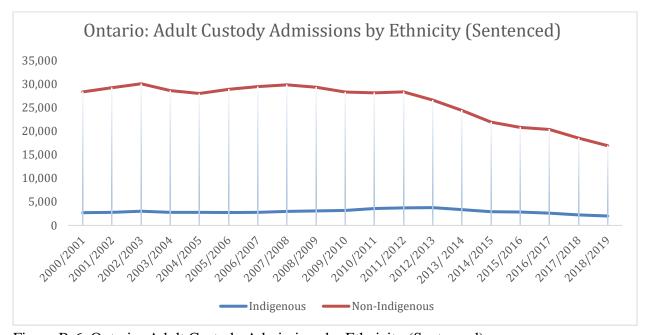


Figure B-6. Ontario: Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Sentenced)

Appendix C: Alberta Adult Custody Trends (2000-2019)

Remand

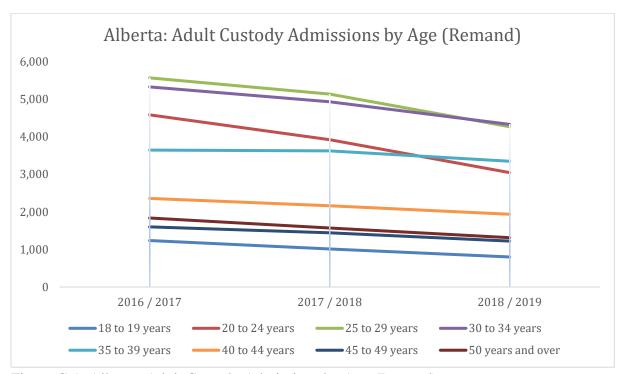


Figure C-1: Alberta: Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Remand)

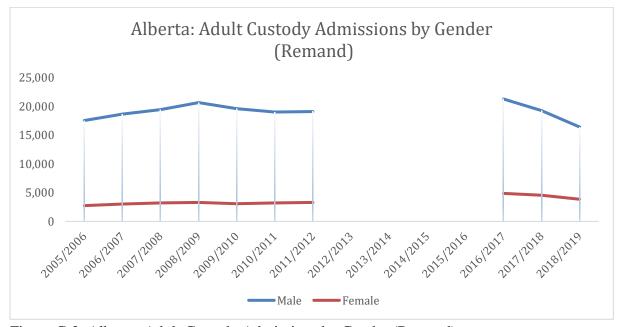


Figure C-2. Alberta: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Remand)

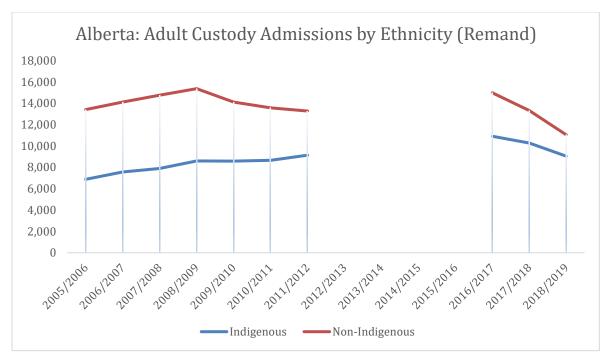


Figure C-3. Alberta: Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Remand)

Sentenced

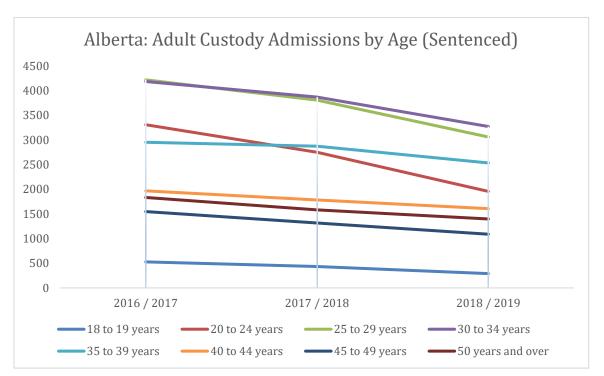


Figure C-4. Alberta: Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Sentenced)

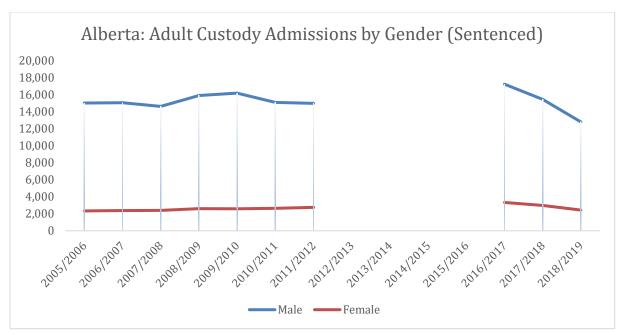


Figure C-5. Alberta: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Sentenced)

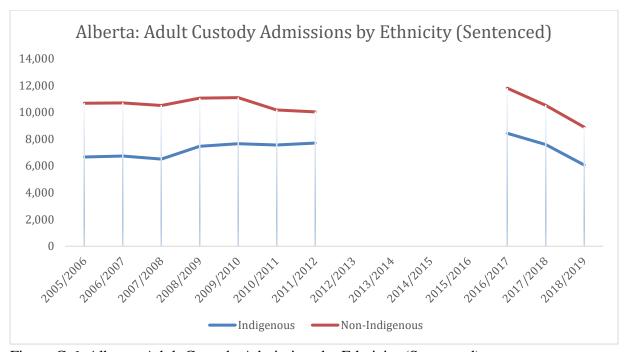


Figure C-6. Alberta: Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Sentenced)

Appendix D: British Columbia Adult Custody Trends (2000-2019)

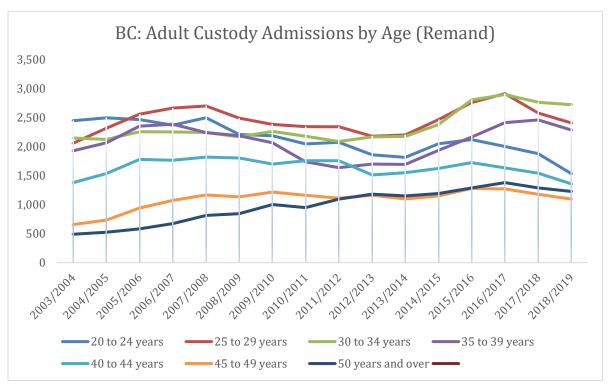


Figure D-1. British Columbia: Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Remand)

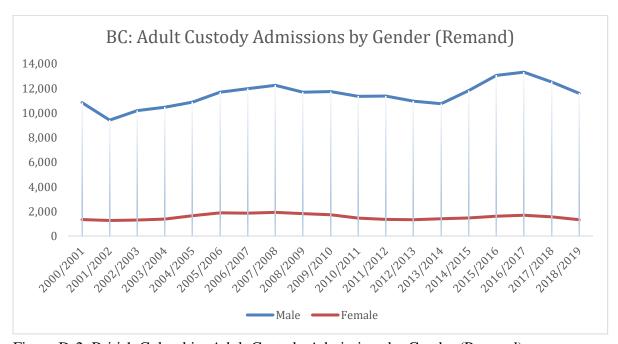


Figure D-2. British Columbia: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Remand)

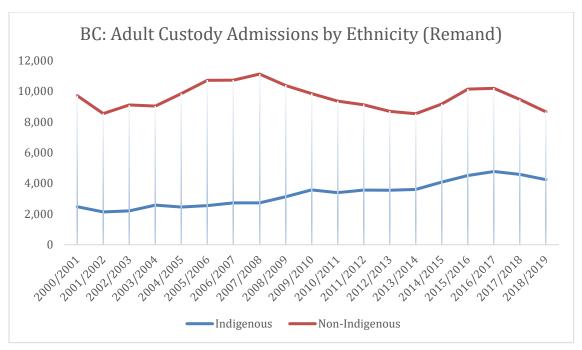


Figure D-3. British Columbia: Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Remand)

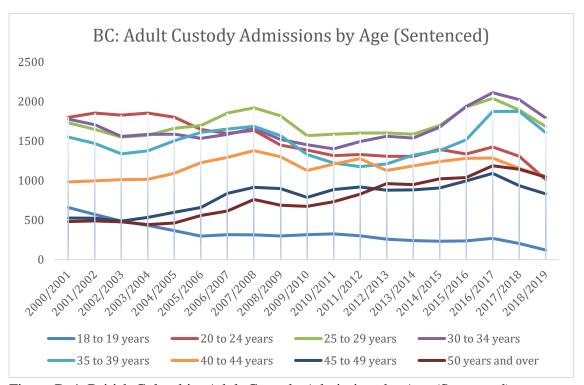


Figure D-4. British Columbia: Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Sentenced)

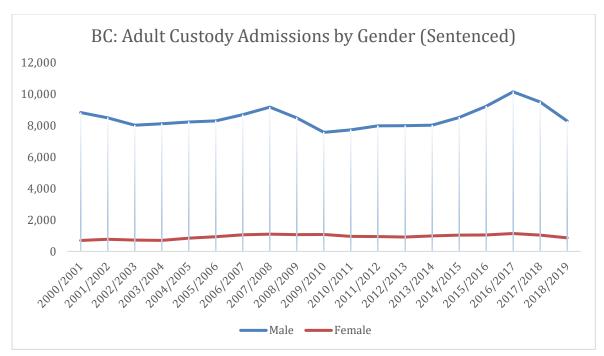


Figure D-5. British Columbia: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Sentenced)

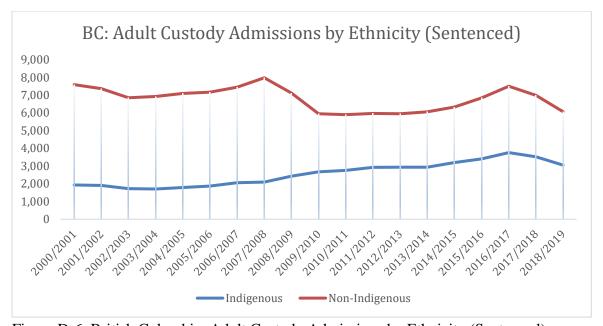


Figure D-6. British Columbia: Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Sentenced)

Appendix E: Manitoba Adult Custody Trends (2000-2019)

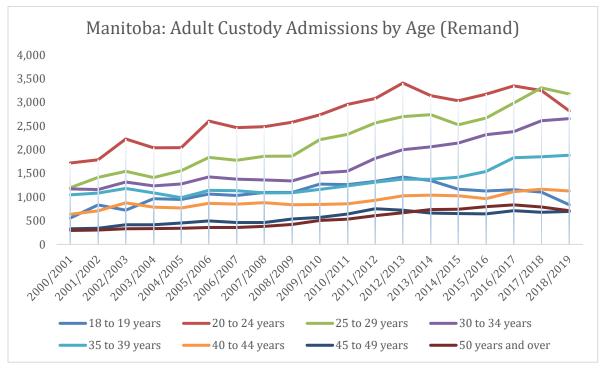


Figure E-1. Manitoba: Adult Custody Admission by Age (Remand)

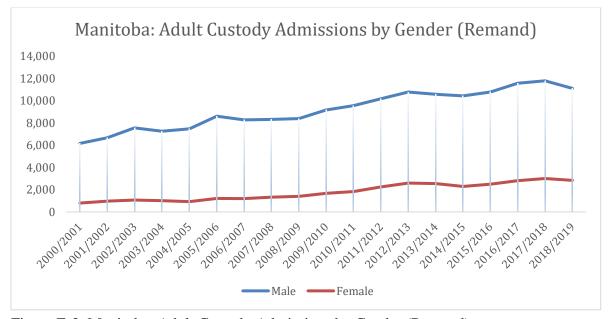


Figure E-2. Manitoba: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Remand)

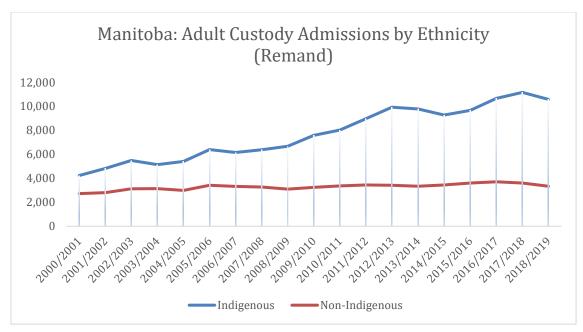


Figure E-3. Manitoba: Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Remand)

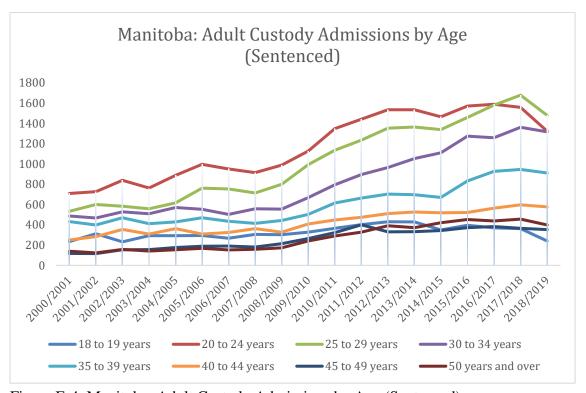


Figure E-4. Manitoba: Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Sentenced)

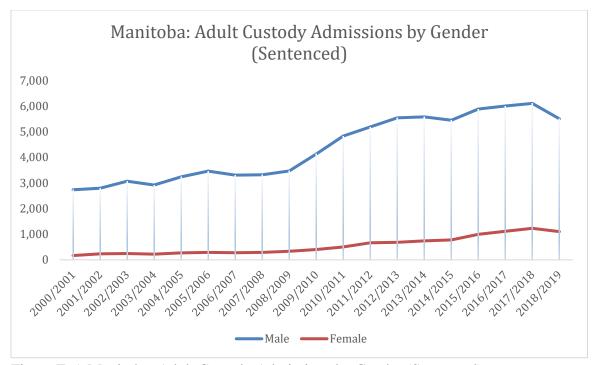


Figure E-5. Manitoba: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Sentenced)

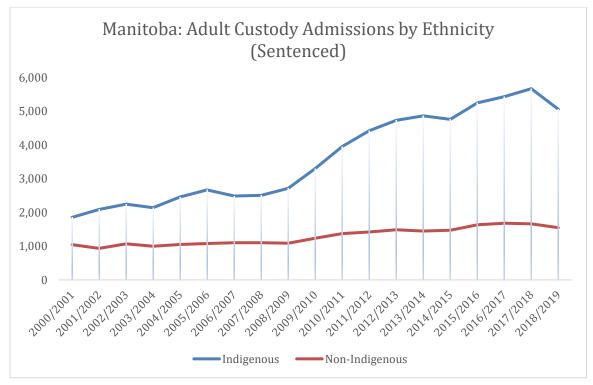


Figure E-6. Manitoba: Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Sentenced)

Appendix F: Saskatchewan Adult Custody Trends (2000-2019)

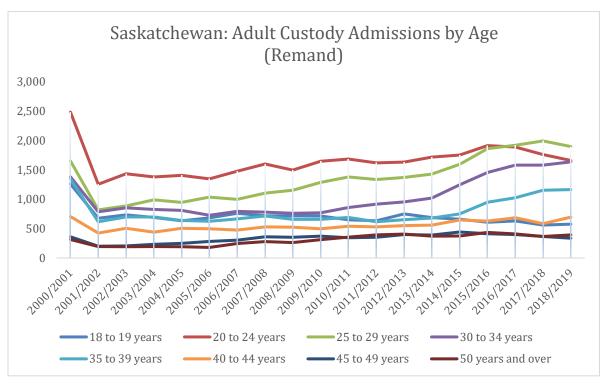


Figure F-1. Saskatchewan: Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Remand)

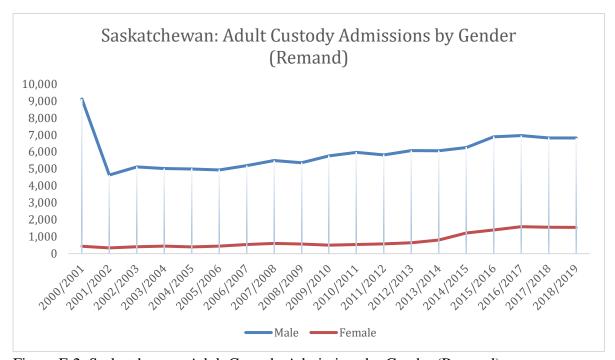


Figure F-2. Saskatchewan: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Remand)

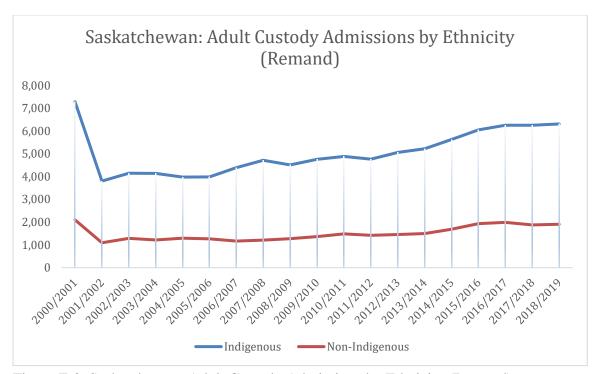


Figure F-3. Saskatchewan: Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Remand)

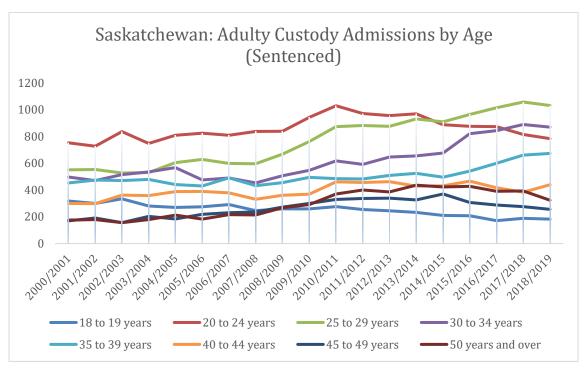


Figure F-4. Saskatchewan: Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Sentenced)

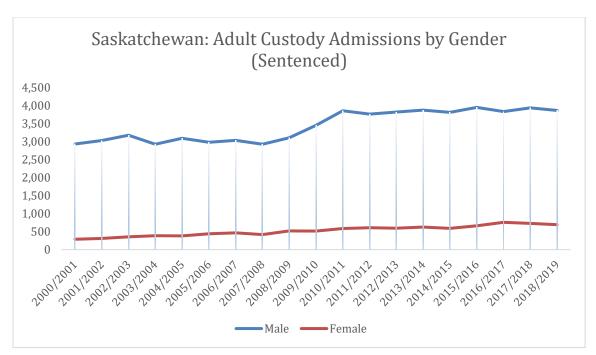


Figure F-5. Saskatchewan: Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Sentenced)

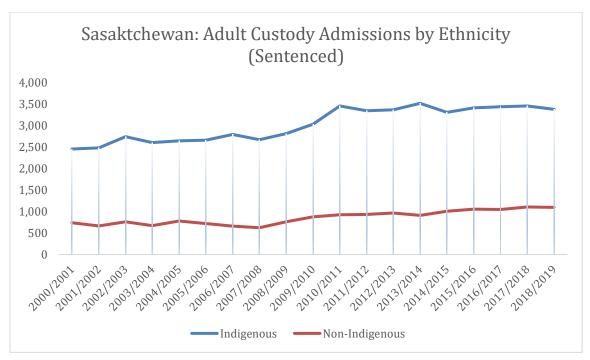


Figure F-6. Saskatchewan: Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Sentenced)

Appendix G: UK Adult Custody Trends (2001-2020)

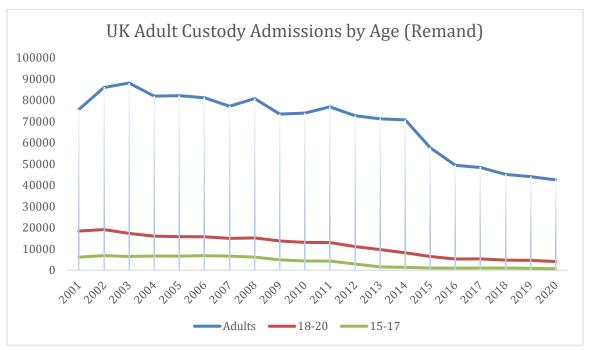


Figure G-1. UK Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Remand)

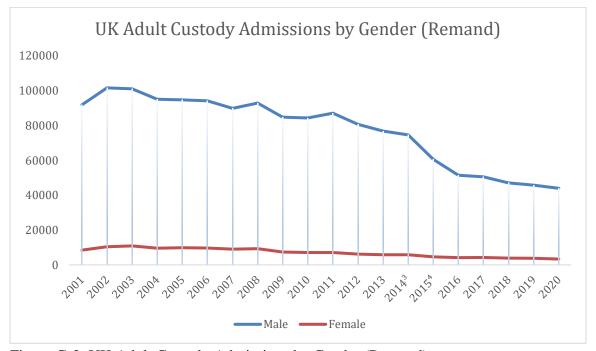


Figure G-2. UK Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Remand)

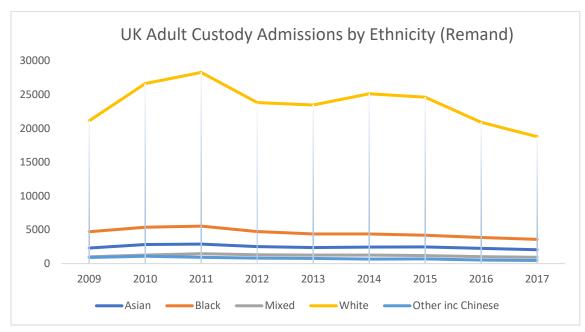


Figure D-3. UK Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Remand)

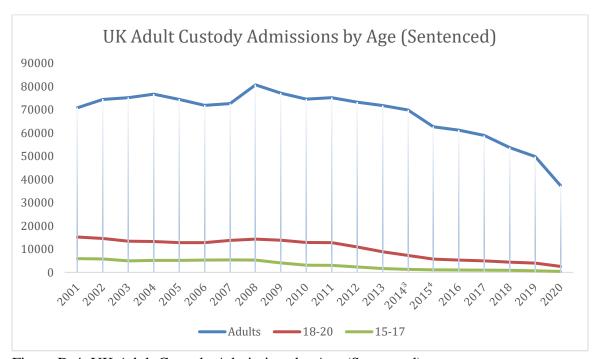


Figure D-4. UK Adult Custody Admissions by Age (Sentenced)

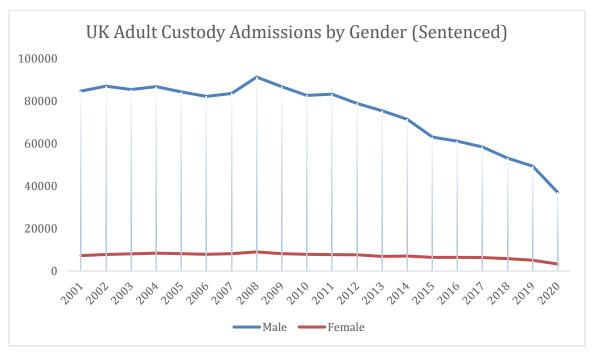


Figure D-5. UK Adult Custody Admissions by Gender (Sentenced)

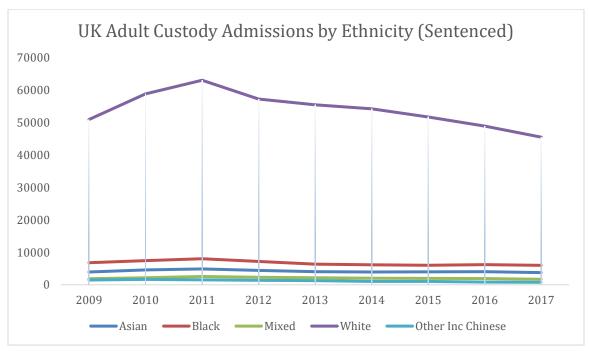


Figure D-6. UK Adult Custody Admissions by Ethnicity (Sentenced)

Appendix H: Australia Adult Custody Trends (2001-2020)

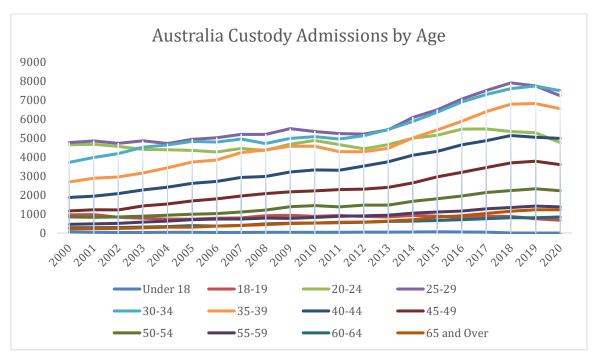


Figure H-1: Australia Adult Custody Admissions by Age

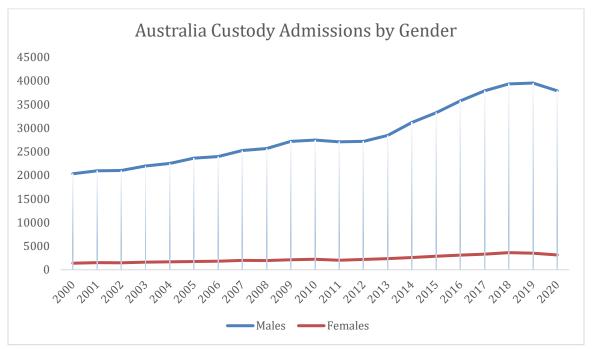


Figure H-2: Australia Custody Admissions by Gender

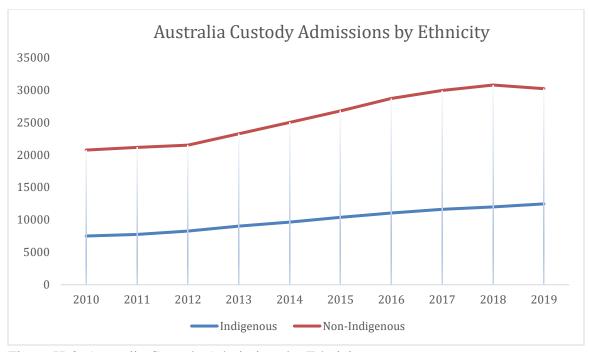


Figure H-3. Australia Custody Admissions by Ethnicity

Appendix I: New Zealand Prisoner Population Trends (2000-2020)

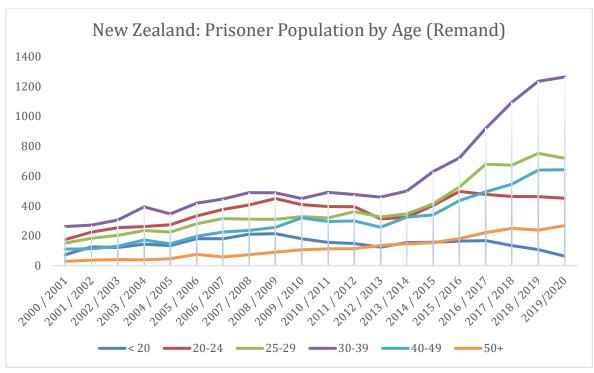


Figure I-1. New Zealand: Prisoner Population by Age (Remand)

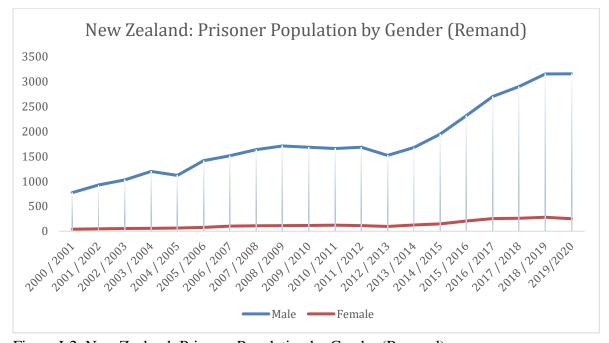


Figure I-2. New Zealand: Prisoner Population by Gender (Remand)

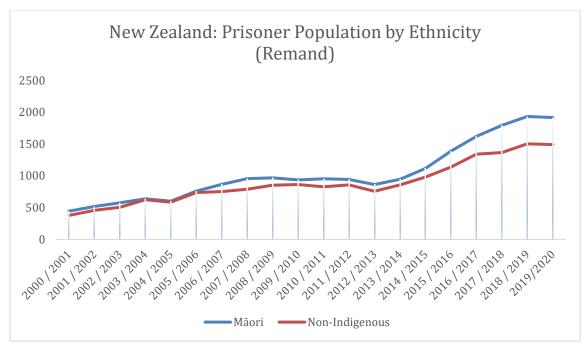


Figure I-3. New Zealand: Prisoner Population by Ethnicity (Remand)

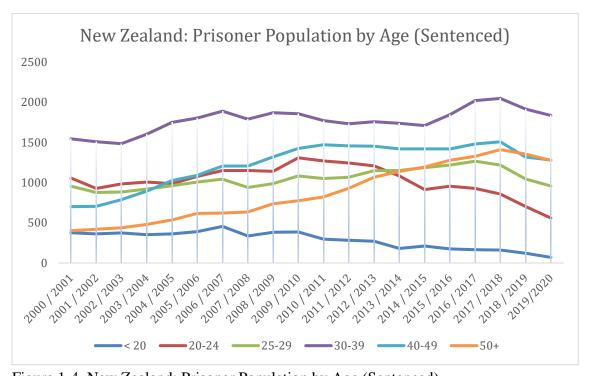


Figure 1-4. New Zealand: Prisoner Population by Age (Sentenced)

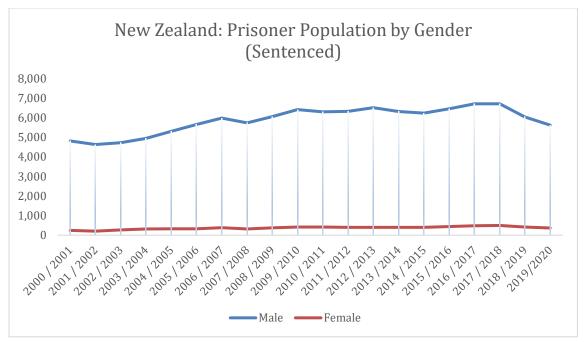


Figure I-5. New Zealand: Prisoner Population by Gender (Sentenced)



Figure I-6. New Zealand: Prisoner Population by Ethnicity (Sentenced)