

secure custodial environment to private facilities which usually allow for regular access to community resources. This has been the case in most jurisdictions. In recent years, private facilities have been integrated in some cases into the government facility network with a resultant impact on the corresponding average inmate counts.

20.7.2 Non-custodial services

The need to further develop community correctional services has been brought to the forefront in recent years, particularly in light of the high costs and questionable benefits of the custodial response to certain offender groups.

Non-custodial programs provided in each provincial jurisdiction are not limited to probation. However, probation is the primary community-based disposition as a sentencing alternative to incarceration. In recent years, other non-custodial correctional programs have emerged to varying degrees, some of them available as conditions of probation orders.

Use of specialized programs aimed at specific target groups such as females, natives, and drinking and driving offenders has grown in recent years. So have compensatory sentences, for example, community service orders, fine options and restitution. Involvement of probation and parole officers in the supervision of temporary absence cases varies across the country. As a result, caseloads reported do not represent a definitive picture of the offender population under community supervision.

Due to increasing community supervision in caseloads, volunteer programs have been established in most jurisdictions. Combined with the fact that probation officers supervise juveniles in some provinces, it is difficult to arrive at an accurate and comparable measure of officer caseload.

The National Parole Board is an independent agency in the department of the solicitor general. It is an integral part of the Canadian criminal justice system in its daily operations and works together with other components of the system.

Under the federal Parole Act, the National Parole Board is primarily responsible for: granting full parole and day parole to both federal and provincial inmates; granting to federal inmates those temporary absences which cannot be authorized at the institutional level; and, terminating or revoking day paroles and revoking parole and mandatory supervision releases.

Since September 1978, as a result of amendments to the Parole Act, it has been possible for any province to establish its own parole board. Three provinces, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, have exercised this right and have assumed responsibility for granting, refusing and terminating parole for inmates serving definite sentences in provincial facilities. New Brunswick also operates a provincial parole board but only for the release of adult inmates

pursuant to a provincial statute. All other provincial inmates remain the responsibility of the National Parole Board; however, provincial inmates must apply for parole under Section 8(1) of the Parole Act while federal inmates are considered automatically for parole at their parole eligibility dates.

20.7.3 Correctional expenditures, facilities and personnel

Government spending on adult correctional services during 1982-83 amounted to about \$1.1 billion, including \$568 million federally (\$55 million in construction costs) and \$516 million provincially. This was an increase of \$141 million or 15% from the previous year's total of \$943 million.

In 1982-83, three-quarters of all corrections expenditures were for custodial services and the operation of the 235 institutions with 16% going to headquarters or regional offices and general administration and the remaining 9% to community supervision. There were 445 probation and parole offices in Canada as of March 31, 1983. Staff salaries for 23,417 person-years in government correctional agencies accounted for over two-thirds of the total expenditure. Correctional officers represented almost one-half, or 10,853 person-years, and probation and parole officers 6%, or 1,424 person-years (Table 20.10).

20.7.4 Offender caseload

In 1982-83 there were on average 108,000 offenders in the Canadian corrections caseload, a 29% increase since 1978-79. The majority, 81,000 or 75%, were under some form of community supervision, while 27,000 or 25% were held in custody, showing little change in proportion over the five-year period (Table 20.11).

The average provincial inmate population increased by 14% over the 1981-82 figure and 27% over the five-year period, reaching 17,149 in 1982-83; the average federal inmate population in 1982-83 was 9,775, an increase of 10% over 1981-82 and 20% over the five years. Besides, there were on average about 2,500 provincial inmates and 1,000 federal inmates who were on register but not in custody at the time of the count.

While 75% of persons in the total correctional caseload were under community supervision, about 10% of total correctional expenditures were for the provision of these services in 1982-83.

20.7.5 Caseload characteristics

Female offenders comprised 6% of all provincial sentenced admissions to custody, 2% of all federal warrant of committal admissions to custody, and 16% of all admissions to provincial probation (Table 20.12). Inmates admitted to provincial custody are typically 25 years old and one-third of all admissions are for fine default; federal inmates have a median age of 28 years and are typically incarcerated for