

Backgrounder

PROFILE OF YOUTH IN CUSTODY

Manitoba Justice analyzed admissions to the Manitoba Youth Centre (MYC) in October 2018. Of the 145 admissions:

- there were 129 different youth (12 were brought to MYC more than once);
- 76 were involved with the child welfare system;
- 101 were repeat offenders;
- two-thirds of the CFS-involved youth were charged with violent offences;
- half of youth not involved with CFS were charged with violent offences;
- one-third of all youth were incarcerated for addiction-related matters.

A one-month snapshot cannot provide definitive conclusions. However, it suggests there is a high recidivism rate with youth repeatedly cycling through the system and significant overlap between youth involved in the child welfare system and youth charged with crimes.

Recidivism is a significant issue among the young offender population. Preliminary figures collected by the province show youth who first came into contact with the system in 2010 accounted for over 10,000 additional contacts by the end of 2018. Additional preliminary figures show that youth with 10 or more contacts with the criminal justice system accounted for 70 per cent of all youth contacts with the system between 2010 and 2018.

Indigenous youth are over-represented in Manitoba's justice and child welfare systems, at about approximately 80 and 90 per cent respectively.