



## ADULT CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN CANADA INFOGRAPHIC ACCESSIBLE ACCOMPANIMENT DOCUMENT

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This is an accessible accompaniment document for the Adult Criminal Justice in Canada Infographic PDF. This document provides a description of each page of the infographic.

### Page 1: Main Infographic Page

The page is split roughly in half vertically by a black line, with content about the criminal justice system on the left and content about restorative justice on the right. The header at the top of the page contains the title “Adult Criminal Justice in Canada: Journey of an Adult Offender Aged 18+” with a blue-sky background, a grey sky rise silhouette on the left criminal justice side, and a sun, cloud, and mountain range on the right restorative justice side.

The background of the remainder of the left criminal justice side is grey and the right restorative justice side is green.

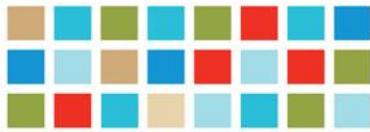
At the bottom of the page, there is a street sign that points to “Criminal Justice” on the left and “Restorative Justice” on the right.

There is a faded gray circular arrow that spans the whole page, indicating that the page should be read beginning at the bottom of the left side, up to the top of the page, and back down along the right side of the page.

Beginning at the bottom of the criminal justice side on the left, there is an icon of a group of men and women with three boxes around it that say:

- (footnote symbol 1) Over 690,000 adults are accused of a crime every year (reference 1 superscript).
- Majority are young adult men (reference 1 and 12 superscripts).
- Most common adult crimes are theft and impaired driving (reference 12 superscript).

Moving up the page on the criminal justice side, taking up most of this half of the page is an image of a man entering a revolving door. The revolving door has six doorframes, each labelled with one to two steps from the criminal justice system:



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- 1. Police contact
- 2. Arrest/Charge
- 3. Bail Hearing
- 4. Court appearance
- 5. Trial
- 6. Sentencing
- 7. Reintegration
- 8. Probation/Parole

Near step 2 (arrest/charge), there is a box that say “63% are formally charged (reference 1 superscript)”.

Near step 4 (court appearance), there are two boxes that say “over 360,000 adult criminal court cases are held each year (reference 12 superscript)”, and “63% result in a guilty finding (reference 12 superscript)”.

From the centre of the revolving door, there is a white dotted line that leads over to a red dot on the restorative justice side of the page.

At the top of the criminal justice side of the page, there is a box that says, “(footnote 2 symbol) the average cost of an offender throughout adulthood is estimated at \$916,077 (reference 7 superscript)”.

Below that box, there are three more boxes that say:

- Homicide and sexual assault are the most costly crimes (reference 10 superscript).
- Federal incarceration is much more expensive than community supervision (reference 13 superscript).
- Incarceration costs an average of \$111,202 per man per year and even more per woman! (reference 13 superscript).

At the top of the right restorative justice side, there is a box that says, “(footnote 3 symbol) in contrast, the cost of sending an adult through a Restorative Justice program may be as low as \$1,000 (reference 5 superscript)”.



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Below this box, the white dotted line from the other side of the page meets with the phrase “Restorative Justice”, which has an icon of a circle of people around it.

Below this, there is a phrase that says, “restorative justice may be considered an exit from the revolving door of the criminal justice system”. This is followed by three boxes that say:

- (footnote 4 symbol) Compared to traditional approaches, Restorative Justice programs result in: decreased recidivism, increased victim satisfaction, increased offender satisfaction, increased restitution compliance (reference 11 superscript).
- (footnote 5 symbol) The rate of recidivism for restorative justice participants, at 35%, is about half that of probationers (reference 3 superscript).
- (footnote 5 symbol) Restorative justice programs with a restitution component are most effective (reference 3 superscript).

Between these three boxes is an image of three trees.

At the bottom of the restorative justice side (below the street sign), it says “for example: Community Justice Forums, Family Group Conferencing, Victim-Offender Mediation/Dialogue (e.g. Correctional Service of Canada’s Restorative Opportunities program)”.

### **Page 2: Additional Information Page**

The same header with the title “Adult Criminal Justice in Canada: Journey of an Adult Offender Aged 18+” is repeated. The background of the rest of the page is blue.

Below the header is a box that spans the width of the page that says, “this diagram depicts the typical journey of an adult offender (18+ years of age) through the Canadian criminal justice system; however the flow of steps is always in flux and depends on each individual case”.

Below that is a section with the title “Criminal Justice (references 4 and 12 superscripts)” that lists and describes the eight steps from the first page. The first four steps are listed on the left and the second four steps are listed on the right.

- 1. Police contact: The adult comes into contact with police after committing a crime. The police decide to warn, arrest, or charge based on public safety, the seriousness of the offence, and the criminal code. They may also refer him/her to a pre-charge diversion program.



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- 2. Arrest/Charge by Police: If public safety is not a concern, the adult may be released and given a date for his/her first court appearance. If it is a concern, the adult is taken into custody until his/her bail hearing.
- 3. Bail Hearing: The adult is either released until his/her court appearance or is sent to or remains in custody at a detention centre.
- 4. First Court Appearance: The adult attends his/her first court appearance and is given the Crown's position on sentencing.
- 5. Trial: The adult attends a trial in which a judge and/or jury examines evidence to determine guilt. Each trial is unique and the adult is presumed "innocent until proven guilty".
- 6. Sentencing: If the adult is convicted, possible sentencing options include fines, probation, and custody. Sentencing is based, in part, on gravity of the offence and harm to the victim(s). Cases can include more than one sentence.
- 7. Reintegration: Once the adult has completed his/her sentence, he/she is reintegrated into the community to find work and/or attend school or needed programs.
- 8. Probation/Parole: If the adult offender served a custodial sentence, he/she is then required to undergo community supervision. The adult works with a Probation/Parole officer on a plan aimed at decreasing re-offense.

Below that is a section with the title "Restorative Justice" that contains the following four paragraphs:

- Restorative Justice has been seen as an alternative to the traditional court system but is being used more and more together with the current criminal justice system as an opportunity to address harm (references 6 and 8 superscripts).
- Restorative Justice is an inclusive process that is based on an understanding that crime is a violation of people and relationships. It offers a meaningful voice to victims and community members and is an opportunity for offenders to admit guilt and be accountable for their actions in all types of crimes (references 2, 6, and 8 superscripts).
- Entry into a Restorative Justice program can occur at any stage in the criminal justice process, such as: (a) police (pre-charge), (b) Crown (post-charge); (c) courts (pre-sentence); (d) corrections (post-sentence), and (e) parole (pre-revocation) (reference 11 superscript).



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- Although restorative justice programs are currently more accepted for youth offenders, research suggests that they may actually be more effective at reducing recidivism among adults. Adult corrections also cost much more than youth corrections. Together, these points further support the need for restorative justice programs for adult offenders in Canada (references 2, 3, and 14 superscripts).

Below that is a section titled “Cost Savings” with a box underneath that says in red “(footnote 6 symbol) Restorative Justice is more than six times more cost-effective than traditional criminal justice (reference 9 superscript)”. Below that it says, “this figure is based on a cost-effectiveness analysis that compared both the costs and outcomes of contemporary Restorative Justice programs and traditional criminal justice methods. Restorative Justice had a lower cost per percentage of effectiveness at reducing recidivism”.

### **Page 3: Footnotes and References Page**

The same header with the title “Adult Criminal Justice in Canada: Journey of an Adult Offender Aged 18+” is repeated. The background of the rest of the page is blue.

Below that is a section titled “Footnotes”, followed by the sentence “Most of the crime statistics presented in the diagram above are from Canadian national data”.

Below that are six notes preceded by symbols that correspond to different sections of the first two pages of the infographic.

- (footnote 1 symbol) There were 692,695 adults (18+) who were accused of criminal code offences (excluding traffic) in Canada in 2014, according to Statistics Canada (reference 1 superscript).
- (footnote 2 symbol) This cost was calculated from estimations gathered through a 15-year follow-up study conducted in Toronto, Ontario. Some of the sample would have reoffended during this time period. The number represents the total average cost of a single male offender throughout young adulthood (ages 18-26) and includes victim costs, correctional costs, and other criminal justice system costs (e.g. police, courts, prosecution, and legal aid) (reference 7 superscript).
- (footnote 3 symbol) Based on personal communication with an adult Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP) in Ontario, Canada that uses volunteers (reference 5 superscript).
- (footnote 4 symbol) These statistically significant findings were collected in a meta-analysis of studies examining the effectiveness of Restorative Justice



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programs (including both adult and youth programs together) compared to traditional non-restorative approaches (reference 11 superscript).

- (footnote 5 symbol) One study found that offenders who participated in a restorative justice program had lower recidivism rates than a matched group of probationers. With each year of follow-up, the differences in recidivism rates for the two groups widened. By the third year, the restorative justice group had a recidivism rate of 35%, compared to 66% for the probationers (a difference of about half). Based on a separate meta-analysis, this study also found that restorative justice programs that included an agreement that the offender pay the victim to address financial losses (restitution) were most effective at reducing recidivism (reference 3 superscript).
- (footnote 6 symbol) Based on U.S. Restorative Justice and traditional criminal justice cost and outcome (i.e. recidivism) estimates. Although some criminal justice cost data was missing, any additional costs would have only bolstered the results suggesting that Restorative Justice is more cost-effective (reference 9 superscript).

Below the footnotes is a section titled “References” with the following 14 references:

1. Allen, M. K., & Superle, T. (2016). Youth crime in Canada, 2014. Statistics Canada Juristat catalogue no. 85-002-X. Retrieved from [http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/olc-  
cel/olc.action?ObjId=85-002-X201600114309&ObjType=47&lang=en](http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/olc-cel/olc.action?ObjId=85-002-X201600114309&ObjType=47&lang=en)
2. Bain, K. (2012). Restorative justice and recidivism: A meta-analysis. Unpublished Thesis, University of Denver.
3. Bonta, J., Wallace-Capretta, S., Rooney, J., & McAnoy, K. (2002). An outcome evaluation of a restorative justice alternative to incarceration. *Contemporary Justice Review*, 5, 319-338.
4. Canadian Mental Health Association. (2014). Navigating the adult criminal justice & mental health systems. Retrieved from [http://ontario.cmha.ca/news/cmha-ontario-  
launches-adult-criminal-justice-mental-health-systems-map/#.WLBm4BrlzU](http://ontario.cmha.ca/news/cmha-ontario-launches-adult-criminal-justice-mental-health-systems-map/#.WLBm4BrlzU)
5. Community Justice Initiatives of Waterloo Region (CJIWR). Personal communication (April, 2017).
6. Correctional Service Canada. (2014). About restorative justice. Retrieved from <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/restorative-justice/003005-0007-eng.shtml>
7. Day, D. M., Koegl, C. J., Rossman, L., & Oziel, S. (2014). The monetary cost of criminal trajectories for an Ontario sample of offenders. Public Safety Canada



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- Report, 2015-R011. Retrieved from <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/mntry-cst-crmnl-trjctrs/report-en.pdf>
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  9. Furman, J. M. (2012). An economic analysis of restorative justice. Unpublished Thesis, University of Massachusetts Boston.
  10. Gabor, T. (2015). Costs of crime and criminal justice responses. Public Safety Canada, Research Division. Retrieved from <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/2015-r022/index-en.aspx>
  11. Latimer, J., Dowden, C., & Muise, D. (2005). The effectiveness of restorative justice practices: A meta-analysis. *The Prison Journal*, 85, 127-144.
  12. Maxwell, A. (2015). Adult criminal court statistics in Canada, 2013/2014. Statistics Canada Juristat catalogue no. 85-002-X. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14226-eng.htm>
  13. Public Safety Canada Portfolio Corrections Statistics Committee. (2016). Corrections and Conditional Release Statistical Overview, 2015 Annual Report. Retrieved from <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/ccrso-2015/index-en.aspx>
  14. Zhang, T. (n.d). Costs of crime in Canada, 2008. Department of Justice Canada, rr10-05e. Retrieved from [http://justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/crime/rr10\\_5/index.html](http://justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/csj-sjc/crime/rr10_5/index.html)

The final section at the bottom of the page says “by: Nicole Jeffrey (2017), in partnership with: Family Counselling and Support Services for Guelph-Wellington & Canadian Families and Corrections Network. Document prepared based on: Jeffrey, N., Therien, A., & Bali, V. (2016). Youth criminal justice in Canada. (Infographic). Guelph, ON: Community Engaged Scholarship Institute. Available from <http://hdl.handle.net/10256>

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