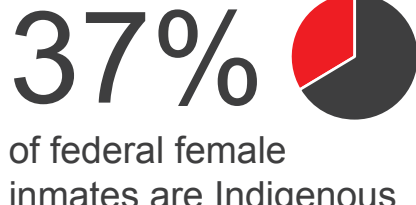
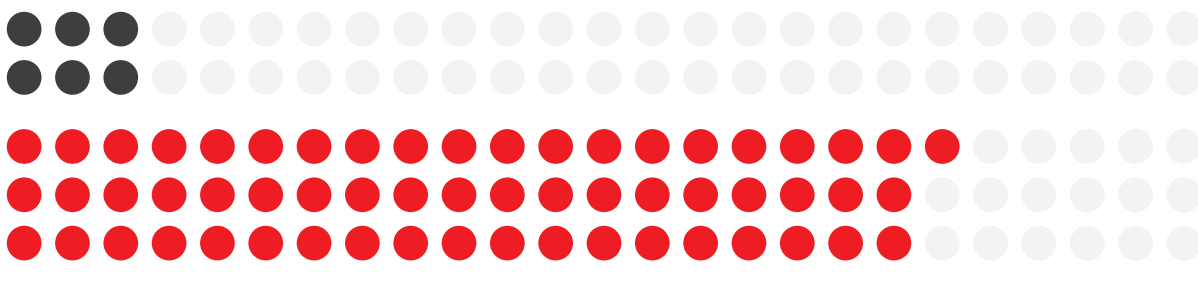


# INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN PRISON IN CANADA

## Indigenous women are overrepresented

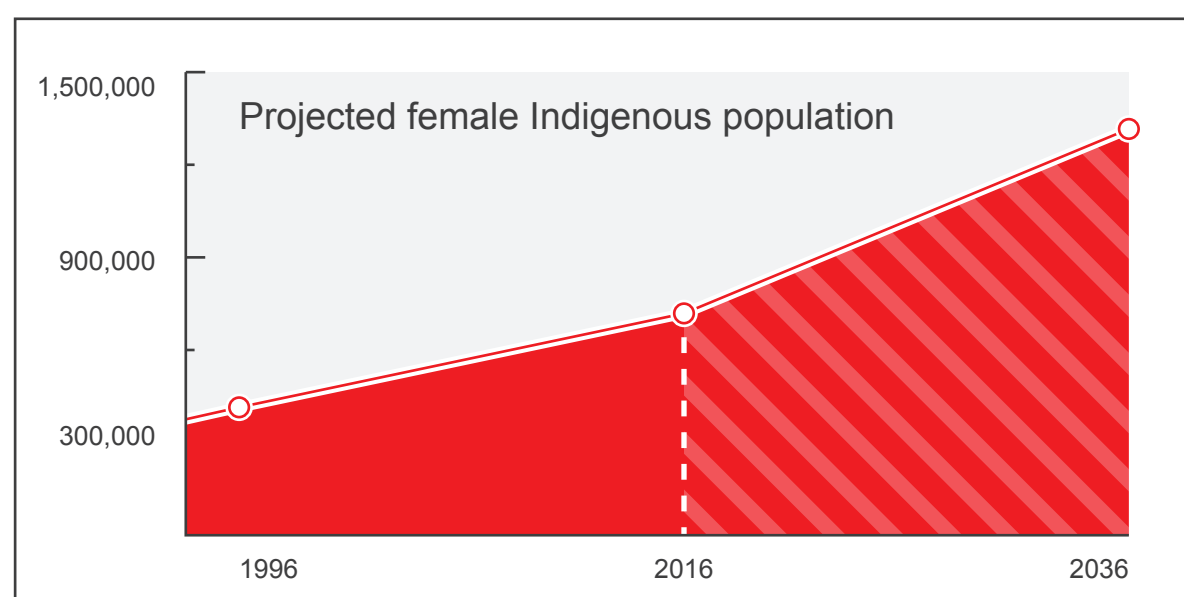
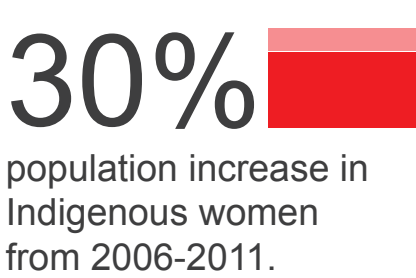
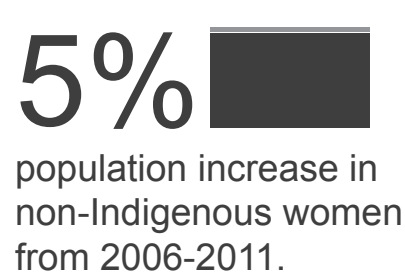


There are **628** total women in federal prison. (April 2014)  
If Canada's non-Indigenous female population was incarcerated at the same rate there would be **5,619**.



<http://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/cnt/rpt/oth-aut/oth-aut20121022info-eng.aspx>

## The female Indigenous population is growing



If the population of Indigenous women continues to grow at the same rate, the number of Indigenous women in federal prison could be staggering by 2036.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/89-503-x/2015001/article/14313-eng.htm>

## Indigenous culture is missing

**3/100** Only 3/100 Indigenous women in prison identified a connection with Indigenous spirituality on admission.

<http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/aboriginal/002003-1001-eng.shtml>

## Sexual abuse is prevalent

**68/100** of all women in the federal prison system are survivors of sexual abuse.

Half of all women who have been physically or sexually abused have not received counselling.

\* It is estimated that 8% of sexual assaults are ever reported.

[http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85f0033m/2010024/part-partie1-eng.htm#h2\\_9](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85f0033m/2010024/part-partie1-eng.htm#h2_9)

<http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/research/005008-0222-01-eng.shtml>

## Indigenous offenders are routinely:

- Classified as higher needs (jobs, reintegration and family support)
- Over-represented in segregation and maximum security
- Returned for breaking parole for administrative reasons
- Involved in use of force interventions
- Involved in incidents of self-injury
- Released later in their sentence
- Classified as higher risk
- Denied parole

**17X** more likely to be involved in self-injury incidents

<http://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/cnt/rpt/oth-aut/oth-aut20121022info-eng.aspx>

## A sample study of Indigenous offenders showed:

- 96% said substance use was related to their offence
- 85% were under the influence at the time of their offence
- 73% reported a family connection to residential schools
- 18% were residential school survivors
- 71% had spent time in foster care

**1/3** were first introduced to Indigenous culture inside prison

<http://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/cnt/rpt/annrpt/annrpt20132014-eng.aspx#sIV>

**“These trends are alarming. An expanded focus on culturally appropriate programming and interventions is key to helping Aboriginal women successfully reintegrate back into the community.”**

Howard Sapers  
Correctional Investigator

<http://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/cnt/rpt/annrpt/annrpt20142015-eng.aspx#s10>