


# INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN PRISON IN CANADA

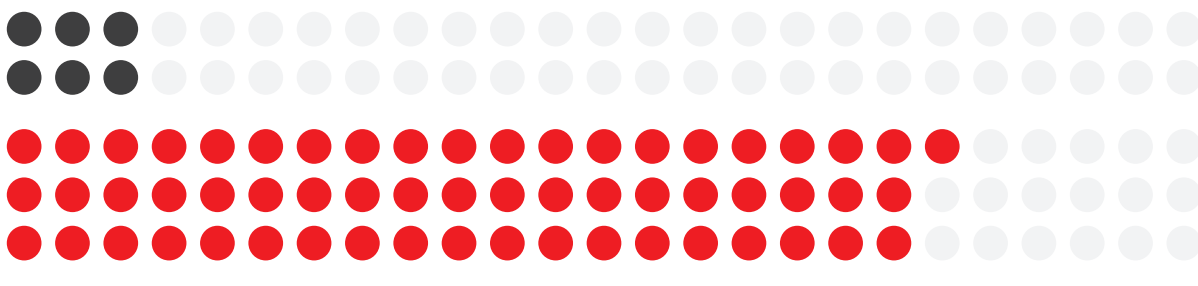
## Indigenous women are overrepresented

**4%**   
of Canadian women  
identify as Indigenous

**37%**   
of federal female  
inmates are Indigenous

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**.




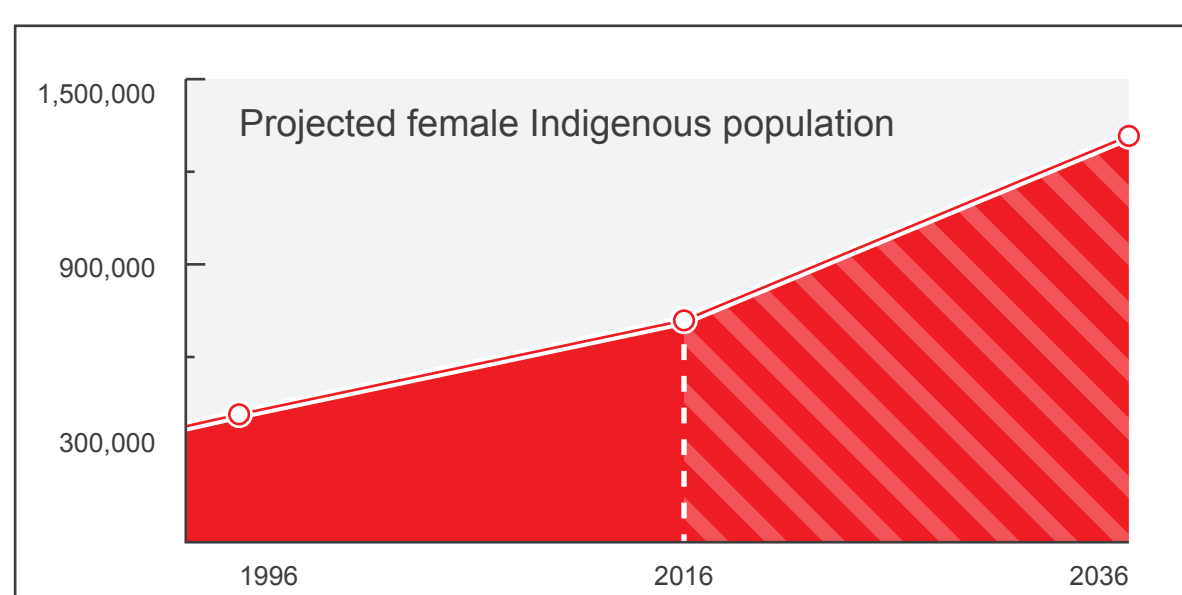
● =100 actual women in prison ● =100 women in prison projected at Indigenous rate

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

## The female Indigenous population is growing

**5%**   
population increase in  
non-Indigenous women  
from 2006-2011.

**30%**   
population increase in  
Indigenous women  
from 2006-2011.



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>