**Sociology 3395: Criminal Justice & Corrections**

**Overheads Class 24:**

**Corrections in Canada: History, Facilities & Populations**

\* In this chapter we look at: (1) The history of Canadian corrections

(2) Profile the prison population

(3) Tough issues (coping/violence/suicide)

(4) Inmates’ legal rights

**(1) History:**

\* Canada only recently increased its use of prisons

\* The earliest prisons operated on either the “Pennsylvania system” (segregation) or the “Auburn system” (working together).

\* Canada followed Auburn approach/ architecture

\* First prisons provincial/ taken over by federal government (1868)

\* Early prisons harsh/ discipline severe

\* Early 1900's parole, staff training, and inmate classification emerged, along with policy of normalization (education/vocational programs)

\* 1935 medical model of corrections adopted/ increased # of facilities

\* 1963: reintegration model became influential

\* 1990's: reintegration merged with risk assessment

\* Women first housed in Kingston Pen: separate facility built (1934). Harsh treatment/ sexual abuse common.

\* Numerous commissions urged separate regional facilities/ programs

\* 1994 strip-search incident in Kingston/ Arbour Commission criticized CSC and finally facilitated new regional facilities

**(2) Profile of the Adult Correctional Population:**

\* 2012-13: 39,679 people incarcerated in Canada (36% federal; 28% provincial/territorial; & 35% remand/temporary)

\* Incarceration rate (142/100,000).

\* Lowest incarceration rates in East/ highest on Prairies/Territories

\* Other statistics:

* 68% of federal offenders were serving a sentence for a violent crime.
* The proportion admitted to a federal facility with sentences between 3-6 years increased from 35% in 2003/2004 to 40% in 2012/2013
* The proportion admitted with a sentence over 6 years was 14%, basically unchanged from 2003/2004
* 47% of offenders entering a federal facility were between 30-49, 40% were between 18-29 years old
* 21% of the federal inmate population were double bunked
* 4850 male offenders were admitted federally, up 22% since 2003/2004
* 275 women were admitted federally, up 16% since 2003/2004
* 1080 Aboriginals were admitted, up 47% since 2003/2004.

**(3) The Role of Correctional Institutions:**

\* Corrections intended to make society safer. 3 philosophies:

(1) Custodial model (emphasizing security measures)

(2) Rehabilitation model (emphasizing treatment)

(3) Reintegration/ risk reduction model

**(4) Correctional Institutions:**

\* In 2014 there were 73 federal correctional institutions across Canada (16 minimum security, 19 medium, 7 maximum, and 15 multilevel).

\* There are also 5 regional correctional facilities for women and a

growing number of Aboriginal healing lodges

\* 177 provincial/territorial institutions across Canada (52% correctional centers, 27% jails/ detention centers, 16% alternative minimum security, and 5% remand).

\* Determining security classifications: likelihood of escape, danger, & violating institutional rules

\* Old classification:

Maximum security (likelihood of escape/harm)

Medium security (likelihood of escape/not harm)

Minimum security (no likelihood of escape or harm)

\* Facilities:

*Maximum security* (high walls/guard towers: 20% of federal

inmates/provinces higher)

*Medium security* (fences/ more movement/programs)

*Minimum security* (could walk out)

*Multilevel* (combines 2 or more of above in 1 institution)

\* New CSC Classification: Levels 1-7 (lowest to highest security). Separate classification for women.

**(5) New Generation Correctional facilities:**

\* “Linear” facilities provide opportunities for trouble with limited supervision

\* New “Podular” facilities emphasize direct, continuous observation, interaction with staff, have reduced violence & escapes

\* Women offenders commit different & fewer offences than men (e.g. less violence). Special attempts have been made to reintegrate them into community

\* Aboriginal offenders younger, less educated and more violent

**(6) Prison Life:**

\* Inmates live in “total institutions” under constant supervision, with little privacy, stifling regimental uniformity, & submission to institutional goals.

\* Farrington (1992) questions this, but prisons remain largely as stated

\* Inmate society involves a subculture of unwritten rules

\* Clemmer (1958): “inmate code” & the “prisonization” process

\* Sykes & Messinger (1960): the “prison code” (i.e. solidarity)

(1) Don’t interfere with inmate’s interests

(2) Don’t lose your head

(3) Don’t exploit other inmates

(4) Don’t be a sucker, make a fool of yourself, or support guards

\* Cooley (1992): traditional prison code doesn’t exist today. Now “informal rules of social control”:

(1) Do your own time

(2) Avoid the prison economy

(3) Don’t trust anyone

(4) Show respect

\* Results in: (1) partially unstable environment

(2) inmates’ relative status

\* Inmate code breaking down: more violence and gang loyalties (CSC attempts to separate)

\* Women’s experiences differ:

- emphasis on developing/maintaining relationships (“pseudo-families”)

- self-injurious behavior

-separation from children significant

**(7) Prison Violence:**

\* While statistics unreliable, prison violence declined in 1980's/ grew since 1990.

\* The suicide rate in prisons is very high/ CSC implementing suicide prevention program in response

**(8) Prisoners’ Rights:**

\* Until 1960's/70's “hands off doctrine” granted prisoners few rights

\* In 1970's prisoners’ rights movement/ court decisions resulted in courts granting prisoners (1) right to be heard; & (2) right to an impartial hearing (usually when disciplined or sent to solitary confinement)

**Conclusion:**

\* Today we have reviewed:

-the history of Canadian corrections/facilities

-the prison population

-the realities of prison life

-inmates’ emerging legal rights