

An Audit of Correctional Facilities and Programs in British Columbia



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Background

- Responsibility for correctional custody is shared between the federal and provincial governments
- In BC, the annual average number of inmates has increased by 42% since 1990/91
- In 2010, BC had one of the highest rates of double-bunking in Canada



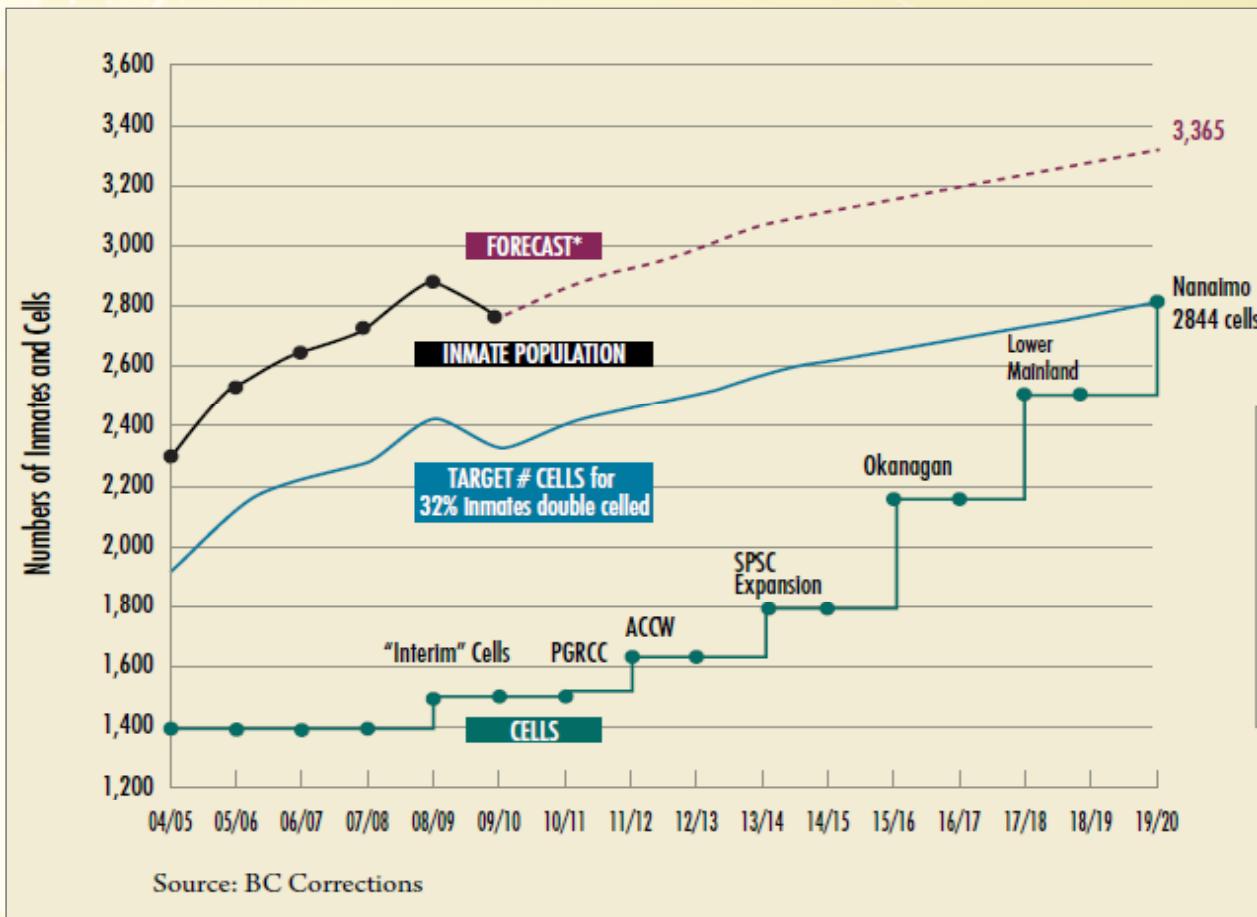
Background

Risks from prison overcrowding can include:

- Increased tension and conflict between inmates and staff
- Greater challenges separating incompatible inmates
- Reduced opportunities for rehabilitative, training, educational and recreational programming



Background



Source: BC Corrections



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Safety and security incidents

Exhibit 10: Rate of safety and security incidents per month (February 2009 - September 2014)



Conclusions

We concluded that the Division:

1. Could not demonstrate that it was planning for, or providing, the facilities it needs to deliver safe and secure custody
2. Was neither planning for, nor providing, the programs that inmates need to reduce criminal behaviour



Key findings

Facilities

- The Division regularly assesses the safety and security of its facilities
- The Division has not set performance expectations, or demonstrated evidence-based decision making
- The Division was meeting some, but not all, legislation or policy expectations for accommodating inmates

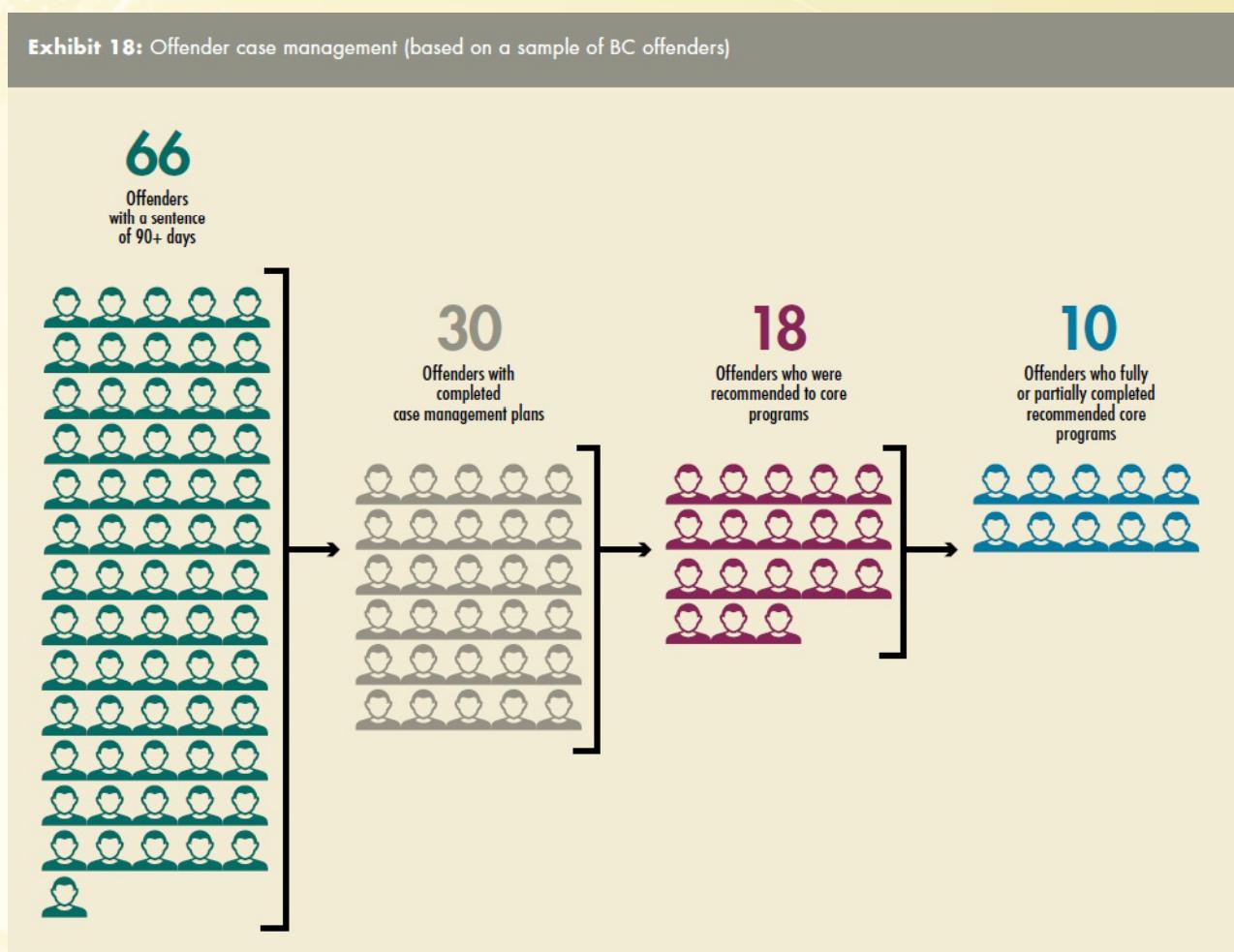
Programs

- The Division offers core programs for sentenced inmates (offenders)
- The Division has not ensured programs are effective, or that it has the right number and type of programs in place
- The Division did not meet legislation or policy expectations for providing access to programs



Programs

Exhibit 18: Offender case management (based on a sample of BC offenders)



Challenges

- Reactive culture
- Operational focus
- Overconfidence?



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Summary of recommendations

The Adult Custody Division should:

- Implement a performance management framework
- Ensure that decisions are supported by evidence
- Improve forecasting to more fully inform future decisions



Further resources

- Visit www.bcauditor.com to read the full report

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