

CUMULATING DISADVANTAGE AND NAVIGATING DESISTANCE: YOUNG ADULTS' JOURNEYS TOWARD SOCIAL INTEGRATION

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WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH?

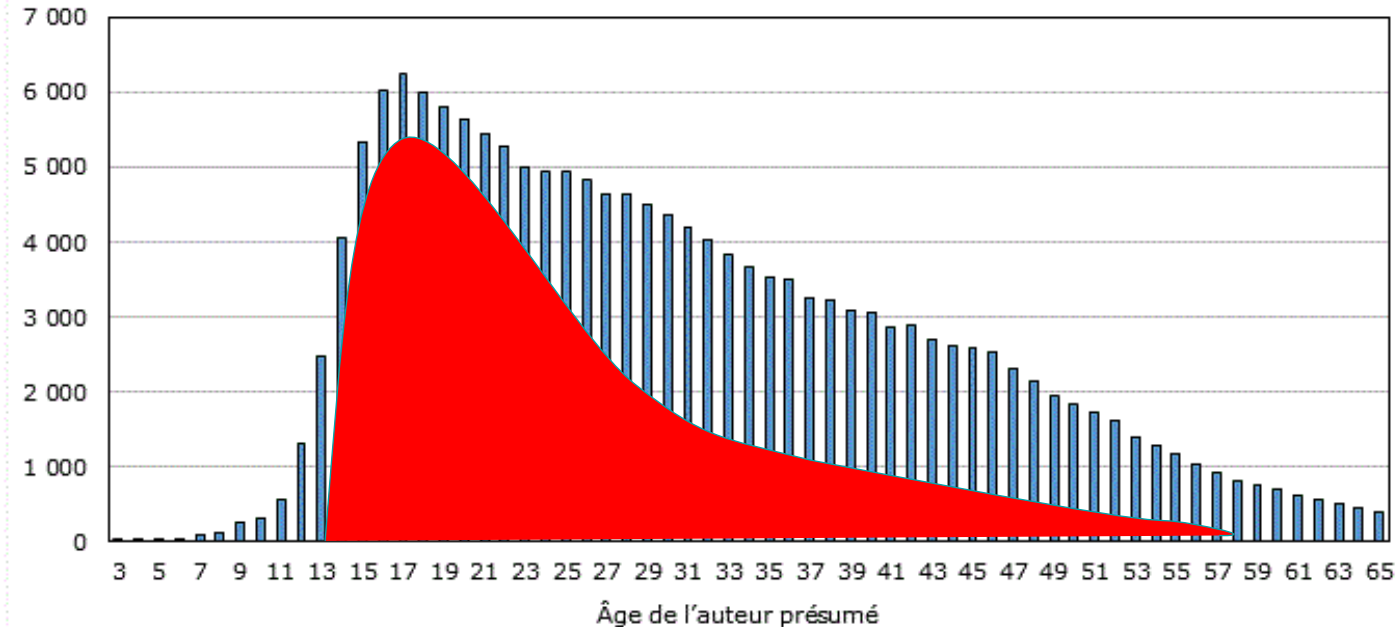
Most of justice-involved youth (16–35) have to deal with a variety of concurrent problems as addiction, mental health issues, employability and housing (Barry, 2010; Brochu & al, 2018);

Most of the time, these issues are handled in "silos", which forces many to navigate complex help systems and most of them seem to get lost in those.

JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH STAY IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW LONGER THAN BEFORE

Graphique 3
Taux d'auteurs présumés de crimes, selon l'âge de l'auteur présumé, 2014

taux pour
100 000 personnes

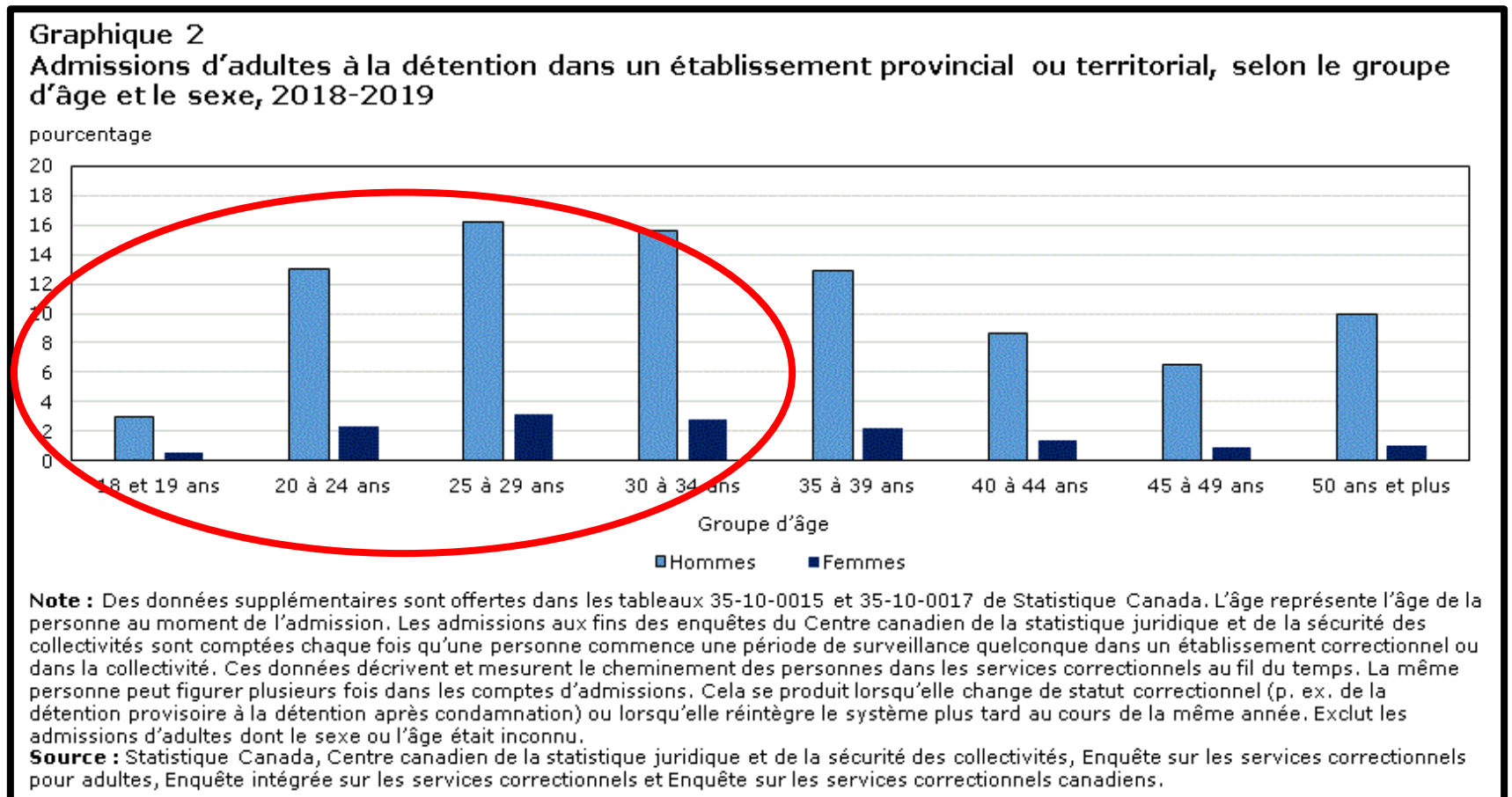


Note : Les taux représentent toutes les infractions au *Code criminel* (sauf les délits de la route). Les taux sont calculés pour 100 000 personnes à chaque âge. Les chiffres de population sont fondés sur des estimations au 1^{er} juillet fournies par la Division de la démographie de Statistique Canada. Les auteurs présumés âgés de moins de 12 ans ne peuvent être inculpés d'une infraction en vertu du *Code criminel*.

Source : Statistique Canada, Centre canadien de la statistique juridique, Programme de déclaration uniforme de la criminalité fondé sur l'affaire, 2014.

AND THEY ARE OVERREPRESENTED IN THE CANADIAN AND QUEBEC PENAL SYSTEM (THEY REPRESENT ONLY 7% OF THE POPULATION)

Approximately 50% of incarcerated people in Canada are young adults



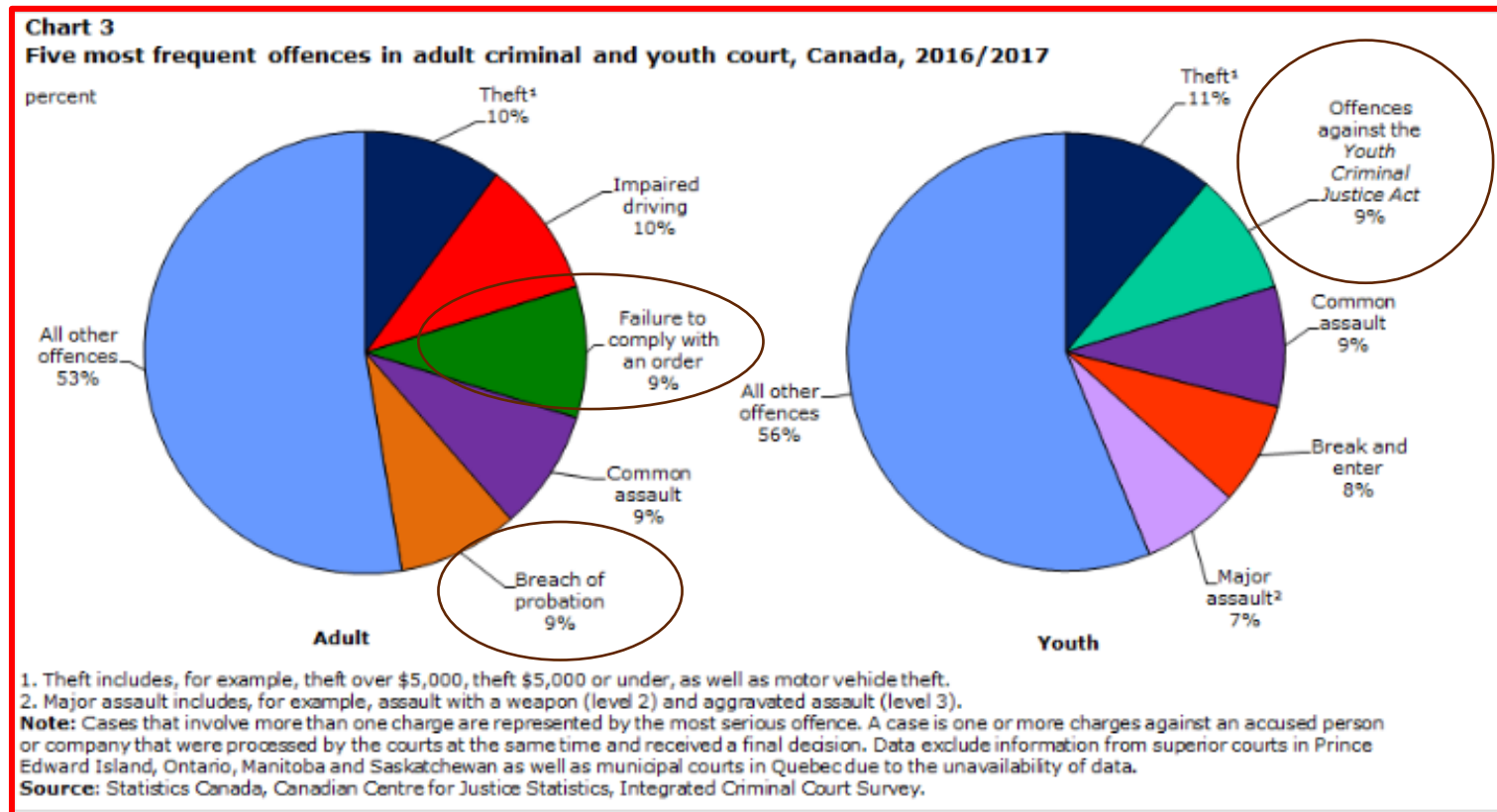
ALSO, THEY HAVE THE HIGHER RECIDIVISM-REINCARCERATION RATE IN THE YEAR FOLLOWING THEIR REENTRY

Variables sociodémographiques	Nombre de dossiers retenus	Nouveau contact avec les SCQ (avec ou sans condamnation) ¹²	Taux de récidive/reprise		
			Nouvelle condamnation	Nouvelle incarcération	Condamnation à une peine d'incarcération de 2 ans et plus
Ensemble des libérés	100 % (8 960)	60 % (5 415)	54 % (4 808)	42 % (3 755)	2 % (202)
Sexe					
Femmes	10 % (872)	59 % (518)	53 % (465)	39 % (338)	1 % (5)
Hommes	90 % (8 088)	61 % (4 897)	54 % (4 343)	42 % (3 417)	2 % (197)
Âge à l'admission					
18-24	19 % (1 720)	73 % (1 261)	65 % (1 125)	50 % (857)	3 % (51)
25-34	27 % (2 439)	64 % (1 561)	56 % (1 368)	44 % (1 071)	2 % (51)
35-44	26 % (2 358)	61 % (1 447)	55 % (1 290)	43 % (1 009)	2 % (46)
45 et +	27 % (2 443)	47 % (1 146)	42 % (1 025)	33 % (818)	2 % (54)
Origine					
Allochtone	94 % (8 436)	60 % (5 036)	53 % (4 455)	41 % (3 487)	2 % (192)
Autochtone ¹³	6 % (524)	72 % (379)	67 % (353)	51 % (268)	2 % (10)

But around 40 % do seem to get out of the penal system during that period

- Lalande, P., P. Dolmaire et R. Lévesque (2018). *La récidive/reprise de la clientèle confiée aux Services correctionnels du Québec, cohortes 2010-2011*. Québec : Direction générale adjointe aux programmes, au conseil et à l'administration, Direction générale des services correctionnels, ministère de la Sécurité publique du Québec, 112 p.

WE ALSO HAVE A BACK-DOOR SENTENCING EFFECT (TRAVIS ET FISHER, 2005)



Failure to comply to conditions and breach of probation are amongst the most treated offenses by courts in Canada: 1 out of 10



16-35
Jeunes judiciairisés

(RÉ)intégration sociocommunautaire
Partenariat recherche communauté

A partnership research program
financed by the Social Sciences and
Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of
Canada from 2018 to 2026



A PARTNERSHIP RESEARCH PROGRAM

- *(RE)SO 16-35* was created with the aim of understanding and promoting the trajectories of desistance from crime and socio-community (re)integration of justice-involved youth (JIY) aged 16 to 35;
- It is built around the conviction that it is preferable to adapt services to the various needs of person rather than asking them to adapt their needs to the services available;
- This partnership involves 16 researchers from 6 different universities in Quebec and Ontario (Canada) and 27 representatives from public and community organisations in the province of Quebec.

THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM HAS THREE RESEARCH AXES

- The first research axis is to describe the desistance from crime trajectories and social and community (re)integration of JY based on their perceptions;
- The second research axis is to describe the relationships between the various services providers and help them co-construct strategies for intersectoral action;
- The third research axis is to design, implement and evaluate the implementation of an intersectoral pilot project that meets the needs of JY, inspired by the results of the research projects of axes 1 and 2.
 - We are presently very active with our partners in the axis 3

PARTICIPANTS: AXIS 1

QUALITATIVE PART

- We recruited 140 participants for the first measurement time (T1) interview: 27 identified as female, 112 as male and one as non-binary;
- 67 persons from the original sample were re-interviewed (T2) about 20 months later (it was right in the middle of a pandemic...): 15 of the 27 females, 51 of the 112 male and the non-binary person;
- Their average age was 27 years old. 18% were in school either full or part-time; 58% had a job and 63% were single.

METHOD

- Semi-structured in-depth interviews were used both times;
- Covered themes included: the psychosocial and deviant trajectory of participants, the various services they received, their perception of their journey and opinions on what is or would be helpful to them in facilitating their desistance from crime and their social and community (re)integration;
- Interviews lasted 96 minutes on average (shortest 28 and longest 161 minutes);
- Thematic analysis was used.

RESULTS





THREE DIFFERENT PROCESSES OF DESISTANCE

1- Converts (most common trajectory :16 men, 3 women);

"So, I was very, very well integrated, although yes, I'm different, [has a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder] but that difference is accepted. I would say that the people at [street organization] are delinquents, but [...] they won't reject you as long as you don't hurt them." (Claude, 22 years)

"Well, y'know, you're young, you're trying to define yourself. We saw [older justice-involved individuals] and thought, ah, let's be like them. Then we started smoking weed and it was like a wave. Like BOOM, like when Pokémon Go came out." (Rémi, 32 years)

"It was like, sex and drugs. I was, y'know, living a life you only see in the movies. Like in crime movies." (Simon, 27 years)

"Every day you stress out about being arrested. Even if I'd done nothing wrong, I'd stress out. If you stay in the milieu, cops will come for you. They're always searching for someone..." (Oliver, 30 years)

"She [probation officer] saw that I was transparent, that I wanted to straighten up, so she fought for me. She fought for me because she really believed in me. She saw that I had good faith and that I was a good father. I know I'm a bad boy. I know I'm a bit of a troublemaker, but that doesn't define me. She saw me, and she fought for me." (Tristan, 30 years)



THREE DIFFERENT PROCESS OF DESISTANCE

2- Remorseful (2 men, 5 women)

"I'm not a criminal. I have charges against me, I have a criminal record... but I am not a criminal." (ADRIEN, 33 YEARS).

Ariane (30, acts of fraud) shares a similar point of view: "You're asking me if I'm a criminal? No, I'm not a criminal. I don't feel like a criminal. I do... I did some bad stuff, but I guess I didn't understand what I was doing? I had to make the same mistake three, four, five times (laughs) before I finally woke up."

"I met my lawyer, and she made me sign the papers. And then it was, I dunno, I'm a criminal now? It's like, wow, now it's ME the criminal? It hurt so much. So much. But it doesn't really change who I am. Y'know. In fact, it does not change anything, I still got my old job." (Émilie, 32 years)

"But now, everything is easier. I know where I'm going." (Émilie, 32 years)



THREE DIFFERENT PROCESS OF DESISTANCE

3-Rescued (7 men)

- "I got out of the hospital (mental ward) and bought a pellet gun. I walked straight to the nearest convenience store. I sat down. I wasn't wearing a mask and my pellet gun looked like a toy. I told the clerk to give me the money. She said no. Then I shot 4 pellets into the wall behind her. Then I thought to myself: what are you doing, what's wrong with you? I left the gun there and sat outside to wait for the police. You see, a real robbery would not have gone like that. I really wanted to get arrested." (Jean-Louis, 33 years)
- "It was group therapy. The group, you could call it a family. We had to treat each other like members of a family. I had never experienced this feeling before. It was so, so, so cool. I'd never had this before. I had never trusted people like that before..." (Maurice, 20 years)

ALSO, OF THE 67 PERSONS WE WERE ABLE TO INTERVIEW TWICE

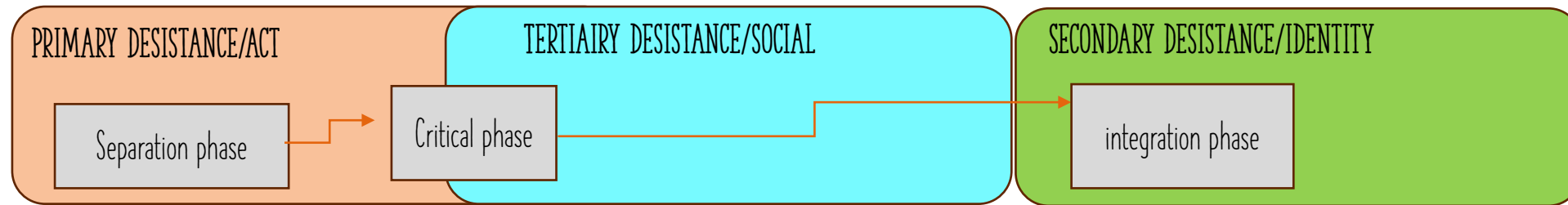
- 7 others (6 men and 1 women) were persisting in crime;
- And a lot of our respondent were still in-between (18 men and 4 men) when we met them. These cases will be further analysed in the next months as they can explain what was 'missing' in their desistance process for it to succeed.

CONCLUSION

- Justice-involved youth (JIY) 16 to 35 years old need assistance in many spheres (family/marital, alcohol and drugs, lodging, etc.);
- Assisted desistance is a relatively new concept (King, 2013; F-Dufour and coll., 2018) and the main objective of interventions is to (re)create a positive social identity through exploration of strengths, sustaining life goals and building life skills;
- It is not a 'program' ;
- Instead, it is an 'intervention position' where mentoring, on-going support and unconditional acceptance is at the forefront in order to guide JIY to 'move on' and 'forget about the past'.



WHAT WE MOSTLY SEE IS THAT...



JY are very vulnerable in their transition towards desistance. Without having 'someone in their corner', they generally face to many barriers to get to integration phase and identity change (secondary desistance) on their own.

Most of them expressed not 'knowing how the world works'. That is why we feel that for the majority of them, convert, rescued or remorseful... desistance is less likely to happen without someone telling you (and showing you) that you 'belong in this world' and that you can contribute to the larger community (tertiary desistance).

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

PLEASE READ OUR UPCOMING BOOK

*UNDERSTANDING DESISTANCE FROM CRIME AND SOCIAL AND
COMMUNITY (RE)INTEGRATION*

(ROUTLEDGE)

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