

*Community Youth Justice Services provide a range of community-based services that respond to the criminogenic needs of youth, thereby promoting lawful behaviour and contributing to public safety.*

# Community Youth Justice Annual Report

2018-19

Specialized Intervention and Youth Justice

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## Message from the Executive Director, Specialized Intervention & Youth Justice



Specialized Intervention & Youth Justice (SIYJ) is pleased to present the Community Youth Justice (CYJ) Annual Report for 2018-19. The CYJ Strategic Plan (2018-19/2020-21) continues to guide our work by identifying Branch goals consistent with the Ministry of Children & Family Development's (MCFD) Strategic Plan. The CYJ Strategic Plan sets out objectives, key strategies and how Youth Justice Program Support (YJPS), in collaboration with the local service delivery areas (SDA) will monitor progress, track achievement and highlight success. The Strategic Plan also assists to set the trajectory of our work when it is evident a shift is required to effect change.

The first CYJ Strategic Plan (2016-17/2017-18) focussed on developing CYJ staff, including implementation of the Youth Justice (YJ) Team Leader (TL) model and specialized training. The current plan continues to emphasize the development of staff, but with external partners and community with a strong focus on relationship building, specifically with the Indigenous community. With this in mind, YJPS examined communication, engagement and relationship strategies within YJ and decided the most effective way to discuss the Strategic Plan was to travel to the community and meet with staff in person. SDA leadership, including the YJ practice consultants and the Regional Directors (RD) of YJ supported this dialogue where possible. The feedback from staff was positive and the discussions created room for new ideas, initiative and creativity to address the three strategic priorities – overrepresentation of Indigenous youth involved in the justice system, improved transition planning and increased use of restorative approaches by all YJ staff.

It was quickly evident the identified priorities are interconnected and in order to achieve our goals, communication, engagement and relationship building with our community partners are critical.

Joining SIYJ in January 2019, I am excited and encouraged by what I have seen to date! This is clearly a passionate group of individuals delicately balancing the very complex needs of youth and risk to the public. I look forward to seeing what the next year brings as we collectively move towards achieving our goals.



Dillon Halter





The Specialized Intervention and Youth Justice Branch is mindful of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Final Report (2015)* and has actively been working to address the 'Calls to Action', specifically: 31, 33, 34, 36, and 38, which relate to Youth Justice.

## Program Description

The primary mandate for Community Youth Justice Programs, derived from the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA), is to protect the public.

CYJ services include:

- ✚ Extrajudicial sanctions (formal diversion from court proceedings);
- ✚ Supervision and service planning of youth on bail, peace bonds, probation, intensive support and supervision program (ISSP) orders, supervision in the community, conditional supervision, and reintegration leave from a youth custody centre;
- ✚ Preparation of reports for the YJ Court and Crown Counsel;
- ✚ Community-based Full-time Attendance Programs (FTAPs) and other rehabilitative programs; and
- ✚ Restorative Justice (RJ) conferencing.

When placed on a court order, any number or combination of conditions may become part of the order and form the basis for a youth's community supervision. The conditions may include: reporting to a Youth Probation Officer (YPO), residing where directed by the YPO, and attending school. In addition, the range of programs and services which can be court ordered at sentencing is quite broad and includes:

- ✚ ISSP;
- ✚ Counselling;
- ✚ Drug and alcohol programs (residential and non-residential);
- ✚ Community service work (CSW)
- ✚ RJ; and
- ✚ Other community based YJ programs and services.

There are also programs available at the bail stage, such as family care home beds or curfew monitoring services that are an alternative to remand custody.

Referrals to programs are made by the YPO.

Referrals for RJ conferencing may be based on a Judge's order or requested by a YPO, Crown Counsel or defense counsel. Referrals are based on the suitability of the youth and the voluntary participation of the victim(s).

Due to geographic limitations, not all programs are available to every community in the province. As a result, YPOs and local community service providers are often involved in developing local resources and service plans that are both youth and community-specific, while promoting the long-term protection of the public.

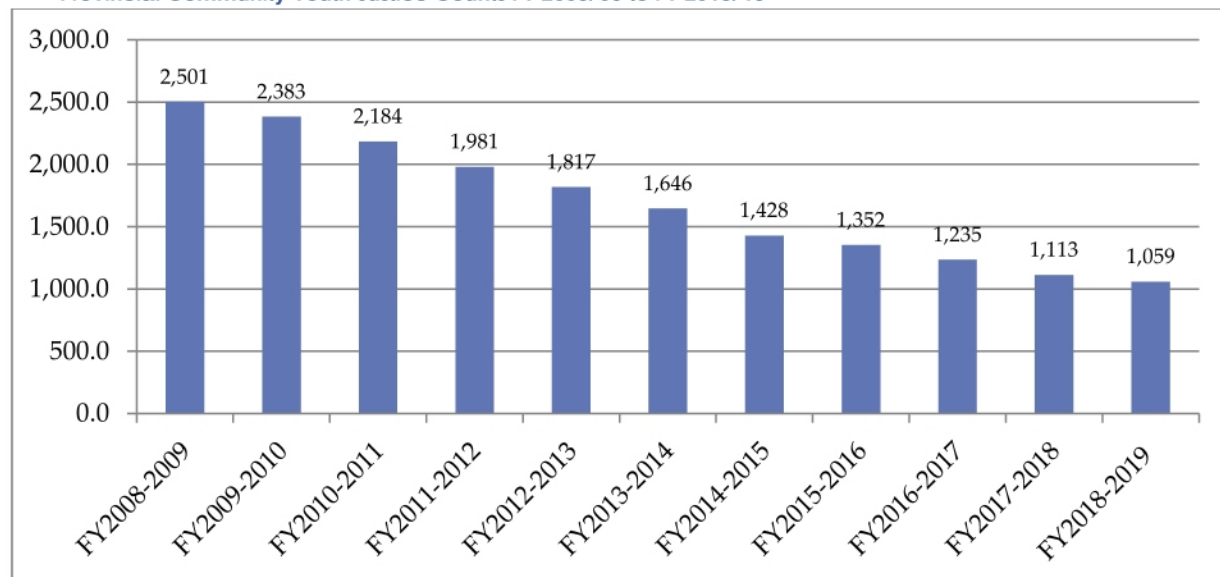


## Client Profile

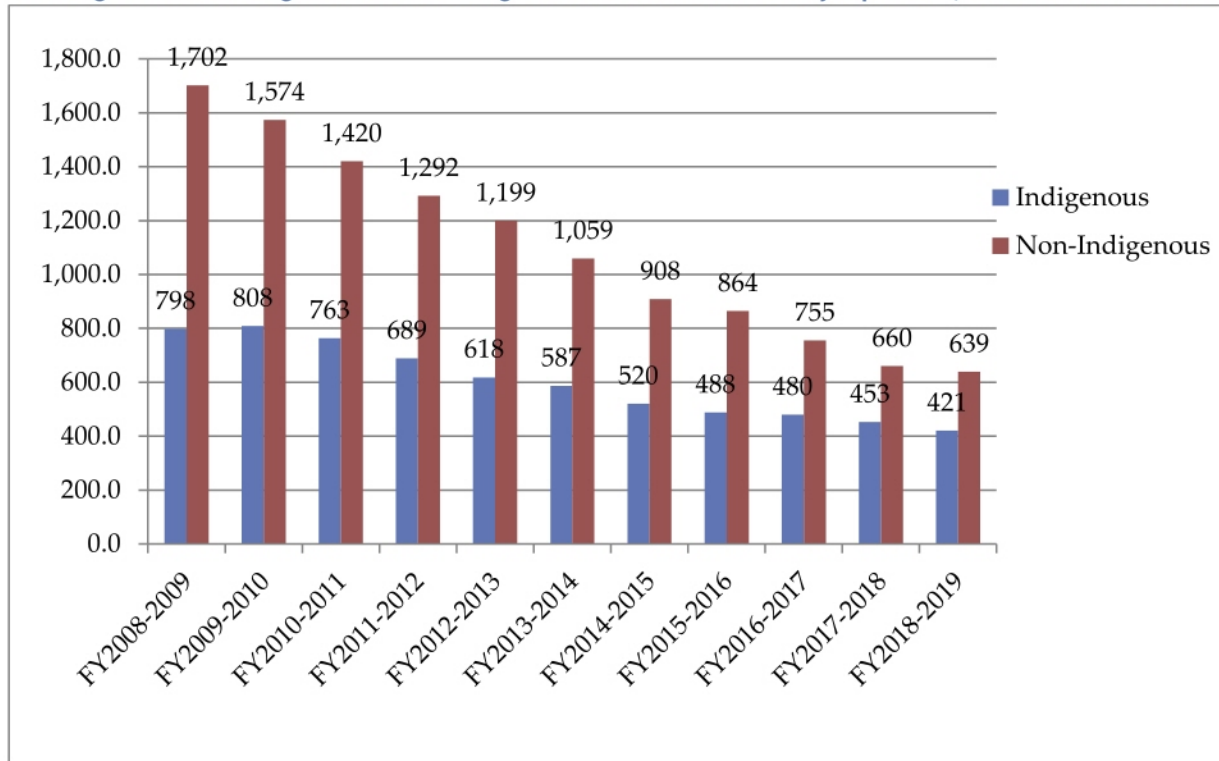
### Key Facts: Community Youth Justice

- The average CYJ count in 2018/19 was 1059, 58% less than in 2008/09 (2501).
- There was an average of 422 Indigenous youth under CYJ supervision in 2018/19, 47% less than in 2008/09 (798).
- Indigenous youth comprised 40% of the youth under CYJ supervision in 2018/19, an increase over the proportion in 2008/09 (32%).
- There was an average of 227 girls under CYJ supervision in 2018/19, 60% less than the number in 2008/09 (570).
- Girls comprised 21% of the youth under CYJ supervision in 2018/19, a proportion that has been fairly consistent since 2008/09.
- Amongst the SDAs, the largest counts in 2018/19 were in: South Fraser (178), South Vancouver Island (111) and Vancouver/Richmond (108).

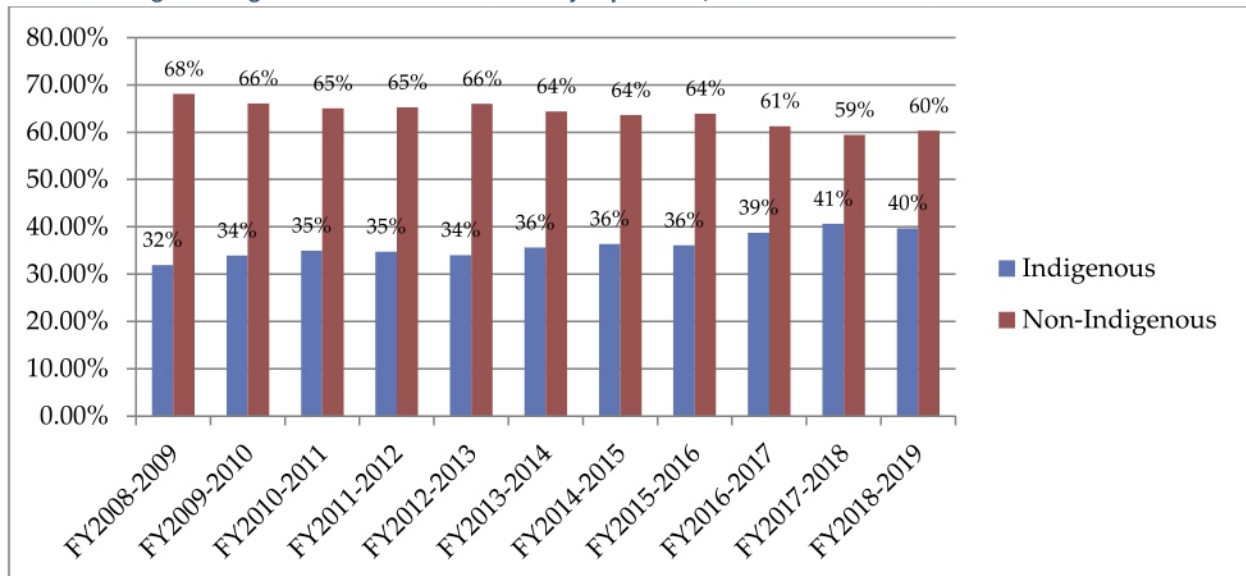
Provincial Community Youth Justice Counts FY 2008/09 to FY 2018/19



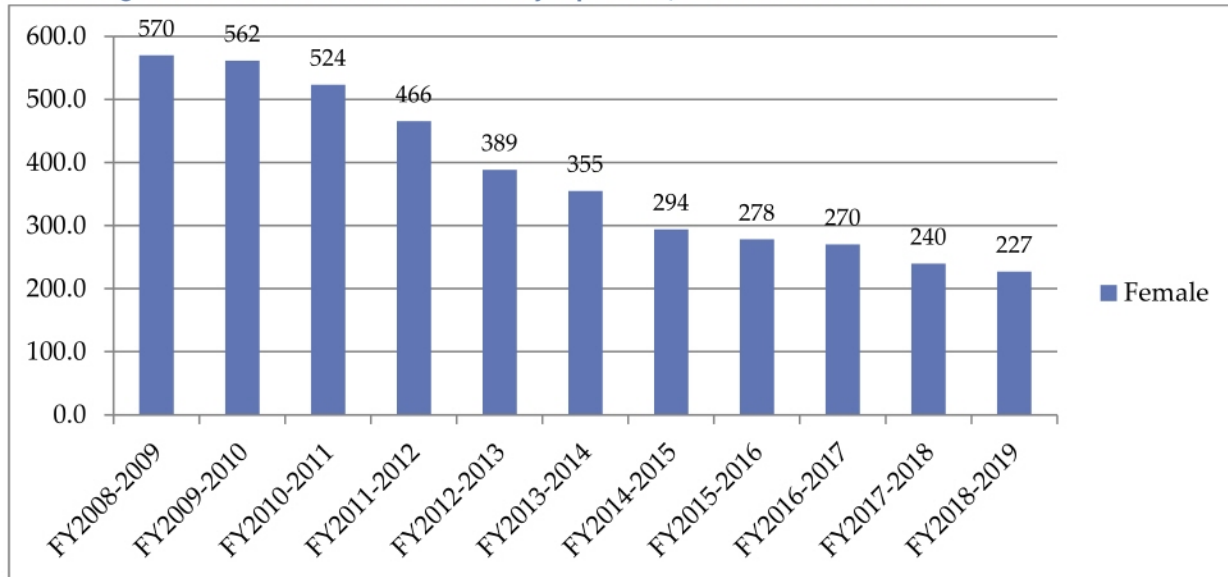
**Average Number of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Youth under Community Supervision, FY 2008/09 to FY 2018/19**



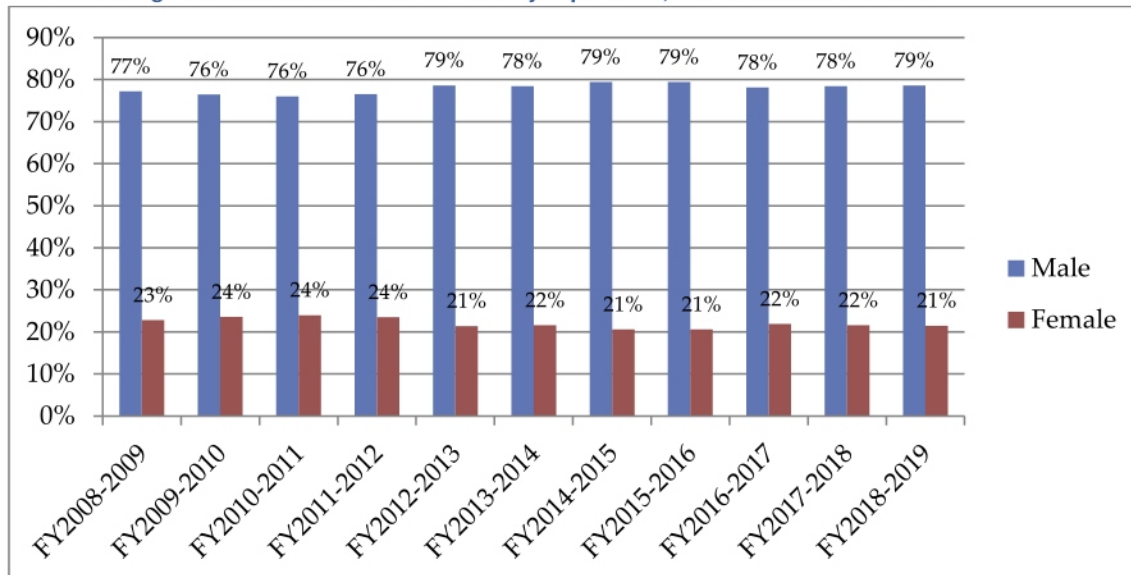
**Percentage of Indigenous Youth under Community Supervision, FY 2008/09 to FY 2018/19**



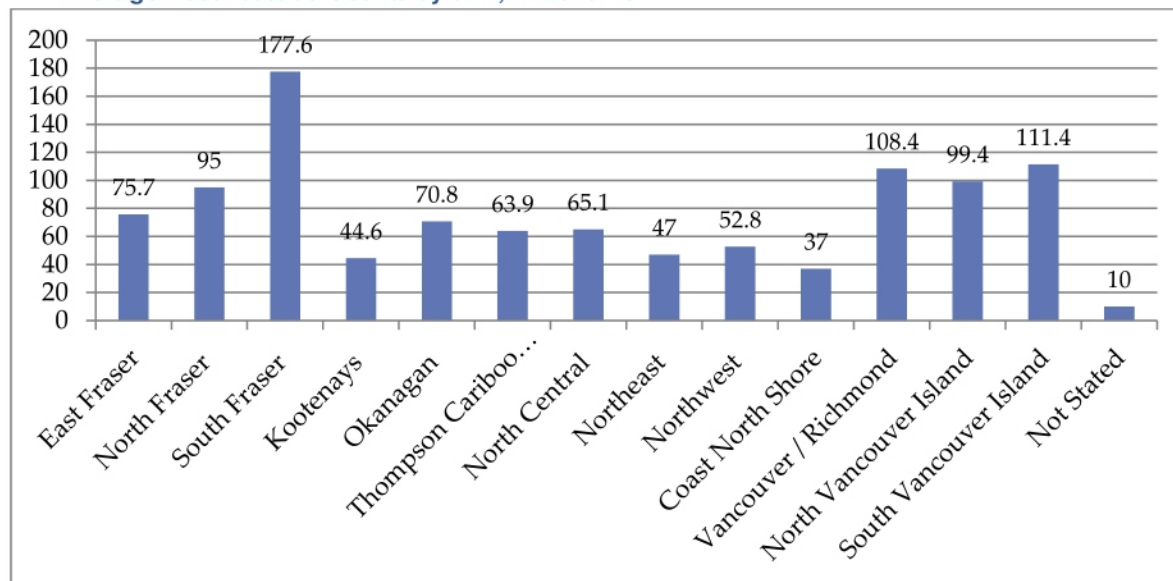
**Average Number of Females under Community Supervision, FY 2008/09 to FY 2018/19**



**Percentage of Male/Female under Community Supervision, FY 2008/09 to FY 2018/19**



Average Youth Justice Counts by SDA, FY 2018/19



## Influences & Challenges

- ✚ Continued overrepresentation of Indigenous youth involved in the justice system
- ✚ Complexity of behaviours exhibited and concurrent diagnoses of youth
- ✚ Opioid crisis and increased number of fentanyl related overdoses by youth involved in the justice system, and also occurring in the general population
- ✚ Gang activity and supervision of gang entrenched youth in the community (lower mainland)
- ✚ Ongoing need to educate staff and community partners about not using the YCJA to sanction youth for non-criminal behaviours
- ✚ Notable trend in the number of female youth being remanded or sentenced to custody for administrative offences
- ✚ Underutilization of the RJ program
- ✚ Underutilization of FTAPs
- ✚ Human resources/staffing issues due to retirements and leaves