



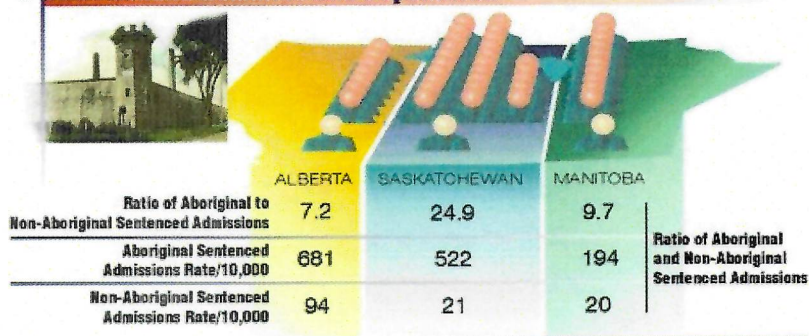
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## First Nations Dominate Jail Populations

**In Brief:**

*In the Prairie provinces, natives are disproportionately represented in jails than non-natives. Rates of criminal behaviour have a correlation with poverty. The solution to high rates of native crime is to attack high poverty rates in the aboriginal population.*

### First Nations Dominate Jail Populations



Data source: *Examining Aboriginal Corrections in Canada*, a paper written by Carol LaPrairie, Ph.D. for the Ministry of the Solicitor General in 1996. (Population Source 1991 Census; Sentenced Admission Data Taken From 1991 Provincial Data Sets, except for Saskatchewan 1993 data was used)

This data shows the relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal admissions to prisons in the Prairie provinces. In Manitoba, a native is ten times more likely to end up in jail, in Saskatchewan, twenty-five times more likely, and in Alberta, seven times more likely.

**OBSERVATIONS:**

The rates of native criminal behaviour are disproportionately higher than for non-natives. A common assumption in the social sciences is that rates of criminal behaviour are closely associated with rates of poverty. Income statistics that compare rates of poverty for natives and non-natives confirm the validity of this relationship. The best method, therefore, of reducing this disproportion is a policy that identifies and attacks high poverty rates in the aboriginal population. For more information on the causes of native poverty, see the Frontier Centre's policy study, *The Search for Aboriginal Property Rights* - - [http://www.fcpp.org/publications/policy\\_series/spr/native\\_policy/aboriginal\\_rights.html](http://www.fcpp.org/publications/policy_series/spr/native_policy/aboriginal_rights.html)