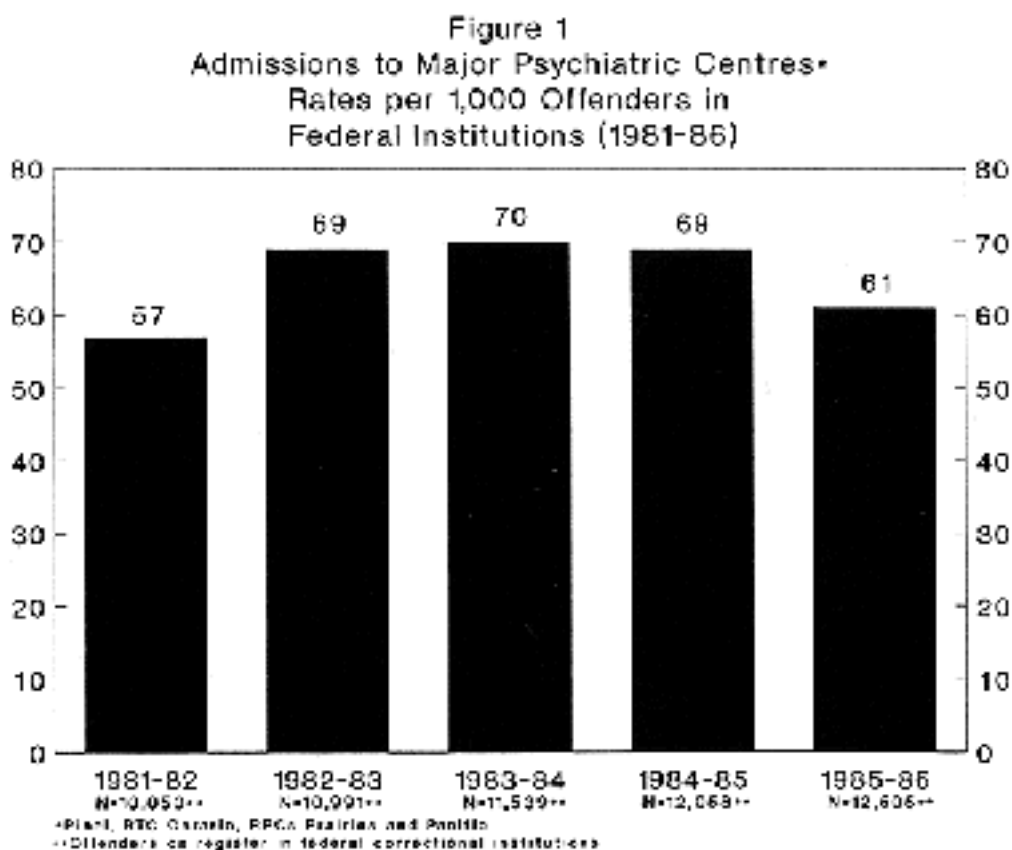


A Five-Year Historical Profile of Canadian Regional Psychiatric Centres

To provide some findings on mental health services in Canada, the Research Branch examined data contained in the Medical Health Care Services annual reports for the fiscal years 1981-82 to 1985-86. The reports include data from the two Regional Psychiatric Centres, the Regional Treatment Centre, and an outside psychiatric facility (Institut Philippe Pinel). These findings are the most recent data available, as the annual reports were discontinued after 1985-86.

We have compiled a brief overview of findings on offenders and psychiatric facilities. Figure 1 indicates that the admission rates remained fairly stable over the five-year period. However, the average occupancy of beds in the three major psychiatric facilities Regional Psychiatric Centre (Prairies), Regional Psychiatric Centre (Pacific) and Regional Treatment Centre (Ontario) - increased dramatically, from 67% in 1981-82 to 90% in 1983-84, and then remained stable until 1985-86. This can be explained by the increase of approximately 20% in the general offender population.

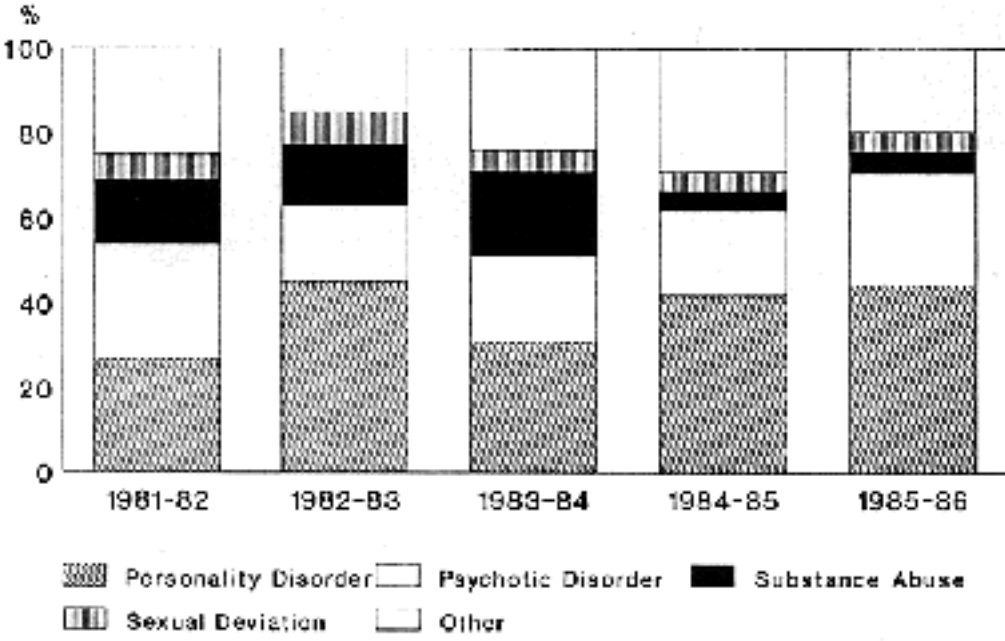
Figure 1



Personality disorder was the most common diagnosis cited as the reason for offender discharge, as shown in Figure 2. Psychotic disorders accounted for about 20% of all diagnoses in the entire five-year period. There appears to have been no increase in the number of offenders diagnosed as sexual deviants upon discharge. The drop in substance abuse diagnoses from 1983-84 (20%) to 1984-85 (5%) may be due, at least in part, to the change in disorder classification between years.

Figure 2

Figure 2
Discharged Cases from Regional Psychiatric
Centres by Diagnoses* (1981-86)



* Pinel Centre is included for each year
1981-82 data not include Pacific or Prairies region
1983-84 data not include Pacific region

In providing a snapshot of the trends over a period of time, historical analyses can assist us in present situations by giving us a better understanding of offenders who require mental health services.

Operation Statistics: Institutional Health Care Centres and Major Psychiatric Facilities. Medical and Health Care Services, Correctional Service of Canada, 1980-86.