Source: Ministry Of Social And Family Development; Probation Service Annual Report 2013
THE BIG PICTURE
Probation Services Branch supervised a total of 2,238 probationers in 2013 (see Chart 1). Of these, 1,205 probationers performed Community Service during the year as part of their Probation Order.

965 Pre-Sentence Reports (PSRs) were called for by the Courts. Of these, 215 came PSRs for juvenile offenders and 750 were for adult offenders. Of the 899 PSRs submitted in 2013, 88% (804) of recommendations were accepted by the Courts.

NEW PROBATION CASES
There were 835 cases placed on probation in 2013 (see Chart 2). Of these, 444 were juvenile and 391 were adult probation cases. The reduction in adult cases was driven primarily by a fall in referrals for cases age 22 years and above. There was also a marked increase in the level of complexity and risk of cases, as illustrated in the following sections.

While the majority (69%, 499 out of 835) of new offenders on probation came from two-parent nuclear families, there was a slight increase in the number from reconstituted families (13%, 907 out of 835) as compared to 2012 (11%, 102 out of 933). The median household monthly income of the offenders was $3,020, 2.5 times less than the median national household income of $7,871. 90% (752 out of 835) of offenders came from families with incomes less than the median national household income, an increase in proportion from 2012 (86%, 680 out of 835) (see Charts 3 and 4).

CHART 1. Number of Cases Managed by Probation Service

CHART 2. Number of New Probation Cases

CHART 3. Gender

CHART 4. Age at the Start of Probation Order

CHART 5. Top 10 Primary Offences

CHART 6. Family Structure

CHART 7. Household Income

Source: Ministry Of Social And Family Development; Probation Service Annual Report 2013
CONDITIONS OF PROBATION

Grades of Probation

The grades of probation correspond with the frequency of contact and intensity of intervention provided by the Probation Officer. The majority (60%, 501 out of 833) of offenders were placed on intensive or split (intensive-supervised) probation as compared to 2012 (55%, 479 out of 871) (see Chart 8). These offenders were assessed to have greater risk issues such as weak family supervision or parent-child relationships, lack of pro-social peers, unconstructive leisure activities, low engagement in school or work, poor frustration tolerance and/or substance abuse. Such offenders required more intensive monitoring and intervention.

Restrictive Conditions

40% (333 out of 833) of offenders were ordered to reside in a hospital or placed on electronic monitoring. This was an increase of 6 percentage points as compared to 2012 (34%, 318 out of 931) (see Chart 9). They were assessed to have a higher risk of reoffending and required tighter monitoring.

HOW WE DID IN 2013

Probation Conditions

More than 82% of the offenders discharged from probation required intensive supervision, with another 47% given restrictive conditions of hospital residency and/or electronic monitoring. There was also an increase in the number of cases placed on more than 24 months of probation. Notably, 97% of cases placed on more than 24 months of probation were age 18 years and below (see Chart 10).

Risk Assessment

The Youth Level of Service /Case Management Inventory (YLS/ CMI) is a risk assessment tool to assess the risk of reoffending for youth offenders age 18 years and below. For the cohort of offenders age 18 years and below discharged from probation in 2013, their risk level at the start of probation was assessed to be higher than those discharged in 2012. Charts 12 and 13 show the shift in the distribution of risk levels.

Source: Ministry Of Social And Family Development; Probation Service Annual Report 2013
Probation Completion Rate

In spite of the increased risk profile of offenders discharged from probation in 2013, 83.4% (795 out of 963) completed their Probation Orders successfully (see Chart 14). Of these, 10 probationers were granted early discharge from probation by the Court for good progress made throughout their probation journey.

There was a positive correlation between probation completion rate and the offenders' age in 2013 (see Chart 15). Offenders aged 19 years and above performed well, with a higher completion rate (97%) than 2012 (87%).

Findings show that the probationers presented a higher level of risk and multiple needs. Probation Service will be strengthening its efforts in enabling probationers to change their attitudes towards offending and engage in prosocial leisure activities. Families will also be provided greater support in providing care and supervision.

CHART 14. Probation Completion Rate

CHART 15. Probation Completion Rate by Age Group

Reasons for Non-Completion of Probation

168 offenders did not complete probation successfully in 2013. Commission of further offences during probation and poor response to supervision were the two main reasons for the non-completion of probation orders. The majority (49%) of probationers failed to complete probation due to their poor response to supervision such as persistent failure to abide by the time restriction or failure to return to hostels (see Chart 16).

CHART 16. Reasons for Non-Completion of Probation Order

Performance of Offenders on Restriction Conditions

Generally, offenders placed on probation with restrictive conditions such as hostel residency or electronic monitoring have more complex needs issues and face more challenges in completing probation successfully. There was a decline in the completion rate for these ordered to reside in a hostel as a condition of the Probation Order, as compared to previous years (see Charts 17 and 18).

CHART 17. Probation Completion Rate - Hostel versus Non-Hostel Cases

As compared to the completion rate for non-hostel cases, those placed on probation with electronic monitoring had a higher completion rate. 73% (153 out of 213) of those given a condition of electronic monitoring completed probation successfully (see Chart 19).

Recidivism Rate

The recidivism rate continued to be a downward trend. Of the cohort of offenders who completed probation successfully in 2010, 88.9% remained crime-free 3 years after discharge from probation. The three-year recidivism rate for the cohort who completed probation in 2010 was 11.1% (see Chart 20).

CHART 18. Probation Completion Rate of Hostel Cases

CHART 19. Probation Completion Rate of Cases on Electronic Monitoring

CHART 20. Recidivism Rate

Source: Ministry Of Social And Family Development; Probation Service Annual Report 2013