Methodology

Data was requested from the Department which included all fine default-only receptions from 1 July 2006 to 20March 2015. The following information was received:

* offender name
* TOMS ID
* date of birth
* gender
* aboriginal status
* prison
* last known address (at time of reception)
* usual occupation (at time of reception)
* reception date
* discharge date
* most serious offence category

Further information relating to the types of fines was extracted for these fine default-only receptions from the Department’s database, TOMS, using standard query language data extraction. The following information was extracted:

* the specific type of offence/offences the person was paying off during their prison stay
* the sentence length for each offence
* the fine amount in dollars for each offence

### Fine defaulters incarcerated on a given day

To obtain the average number of fine defaulters incarcerated on a given day, reports were generated through the reports portal on the Department’s intranet.

Each report only reports the number of fine defaulters incarcerated for a single date, so multiple reports were required. Thirty reports were generated for each day of the month of November for the years 2006 to 2015 (for a total of 300 reports). An average “number of fine defaulters per day in prison” were calculated for each month.

Note that the figures reported are those for fine defaulters without a current remand warrant.

### Offence Types

Offences for which fines were administered where classified by the Department’s ‘Most Serious Offence’ category system which uses seven categories namely:

* Break and Enter and Other Offences Involving Theft
* Driving, Motor Vehicle, Traffic and Related Offences
* Drug Offences
* Offences Against Good Order
* Offences Against the Person
* Property Damage and Environmental Offences
* Other Offences

‘Unknown’ was also used as an eighth category when a person’s most serious offence wasn’t specified.

Examples of the type of charges included in the above categories are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Offence type | Examples include |
| Break and Enter and Other Offences Involving Theft | * Break and Enter (burglary and unlawful entry) – dwellings
* Stealing from the person
* Unlawful possession of stolen goods
* Receiving
* Misappropriation
* Fraud, forgery and false pretences
* Other theft
 |
| Driving, Motor Vehicles, Traffic and Related Offences | * Dangerous and reckless driving
* Drink driving offences
* Driving while licence suspended or cancelled
* Driving without a licence
* Roadworthiness
* Registration offences (including Third Party insurance)
* Other motor vehicle, traffic and related offences
 |
| Drug Offences | * Possess and/or use cannabis, all forms
* Possess and/or use drugs, unspecified
* Deal and traffic in cannabis, all forms
* Deal and traffic in drugs, unspecified
* Import/export drugs, unspecified
* Manufacture/grow drugs, unspecified
* Other drug offences
 |
| Offences Against Good Order | * Breach of bail
* Breach of other probation, parole etc. orders
* Contempt of court, other
* Drunkenness
* Impersonate Public Officer
* Resist/hinder police
* Possession and/or use of firearms
* Prostitution
* Other offences against good order
* Other offences against justice procedures
 |
| Offences Against the Person | * Assault occasioning actual/grievous bodily harm
* Ill-treatment of children
* Other assault
* Other offences against the person
 |
| Property Damage and Environmental Offences | * Arson (person not therein)
* Other property damage
* Other environmental offences
 |
| Other Offences | * Bankruptcy
* Dog control
* Health, mental health, quarantine, food standards, etc.
* Secret commissions, trade practices, etc.
* Security
 |