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:

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| --- | --- |
| 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 |