

# Indigenous people in criminal courts in Canada

## 2005/06 to 2015/16

This first-of-its-kind research used the Relative Rate Index (RRI) to explore differences in court outcomes between Indigenous and White accused. The RRI (shown as a +/- percentage) measures the likelihood of Indigenous people encountering specific court outcomes relative to their White counterparts (average from 2005/06 to 2015/16).

**Indigenous people are overrepresented  
in criminal courts.**

In 2015/16  
Indigenous  
people  
accounted for



of Canada's total  
population



of people  
accused of crime  
in Canada.

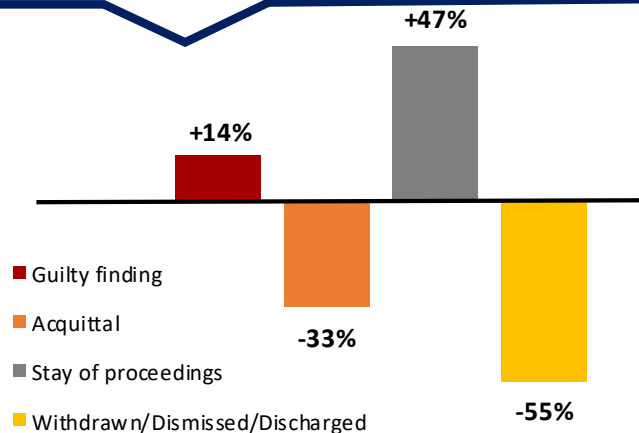
**Indigenous accused experience different outcomes than White accused in the  
criminal justice system.**

### Proceedings

*Preliminary inquiry:*  
**+36%** more likely

*Going to trial:*  
**-20%** less likely

Indigenous accused are **MORE LIKELY**  
to be found guilty.

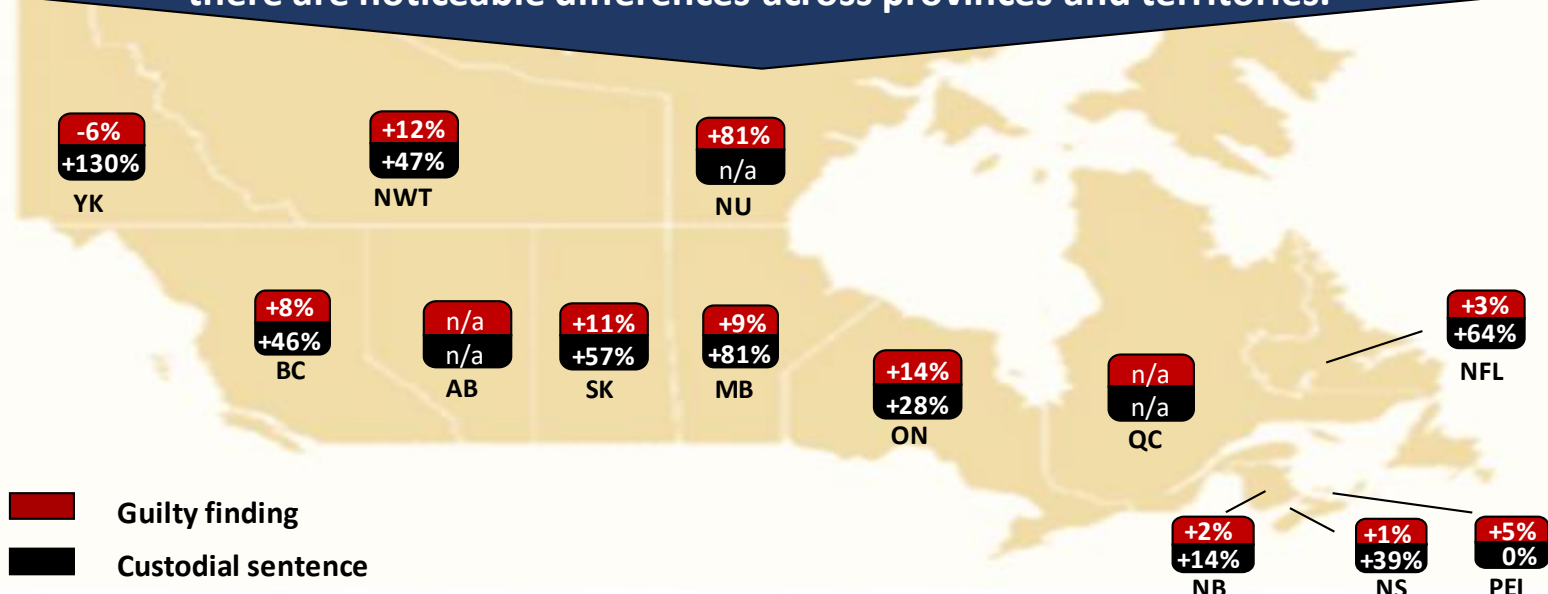


### Sentencing

*Custody:*  
**+30%** more likely

*Probation:*  
**-13%** less likely

**While Indigenous accused are more likely to be found guilty and sentenced to custody,  
there are noticeable differences across provinces and territories.**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey, 2005/06 to 2015/16; Statistics Canada, Census of population, 2016. Custom tabulation by the Department of Justice Canada.  
**Notes:** Data include 11 provinces and territories; Quebec and Alberta are excluded. Includes only completed criminal court cases, i.e. cases that received a final decision. Indigenous people include First Nations people, Métis and Inuit. White include those who identified as neither Indigenous nor as a visible minority. Guilty findings includes guilty verdict and guilty pleas. n/a means data is not available. For more information, see: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/ir/eurri-efitr/index.html>