



This analysis looked at the employment outcomes and reoffending behaviour of 9,041 adults who received grants for distance learning through Prisoners' Education Trust (PET) schemes between 2001 and 2017, compared with a group of similar offenders who did not receive these grants. This analysis is a follow up of previous PET analyses which looked at the reoffending behaviour and employment outcomes of a smaller group of people. This analysis also explored the reoffending behaviour of PET programme participants who either did or did not gain employment.

The overall results show that those who received PET grants were less likely to reoffend in the year after their release from prison and more likely to be employed, compared with a group of similar offenders who did not receive these grants.

Key Findings

Prisoners' Education Trust (PET) - 4 th Analysis	
18% of the overall treatment group reoffended during the one-year period after release	↓ This is significantly less than the comparison group (23%)
40% of the treatment group were employed during the one-year period after release	↑ This is significantly more than the comparison group (33%)
13% of the treatment group who were in employment, reoffended during the one-year period after release	↓ This is significantly less than the comparison group in employment (18%)
24% of the treatment group who were not in employment, reoffended during the one-year period after release	↓ This is significantly less than the comparison group not in employment (28%)

Overview

Prisoners' Education Trust (PET) funds prisoners to study courses via distance learning in subjects and at levels that are not generally available through mainstream education. This includes academic qualifications (such as GCSEs, A Levels, diplomas and modules for first year university study) and a wide range of vocational courses in topics such as business start-up, personal fitness training and plumbing theory. They also fund courses for personal and social development, such as in creative writing or languages.

Overall, individuals were less likely to reoffend in the year after release from prison following support from PET, compared with those who did not receive the grants.

Individuals were also more likely to be employed overall in the year after release from prison following support from PET, compared with those who did not receive the grants. This result was seen across all separate course types (Open University (OU), other academic, vocational).

Individuals who were in employment within the one-year period following a PET grant were less likely to reoffend than employed individuals who did not receive a grant. This trend was also seen for all separate course types (OU, other academic, vocational).

Similarly, those who were not in employment within the one-year period following a PET grant were less likely to reoffend than individuals who were not employed and did not receive a grant. Again, this trend was seen for all separate course types (OU, other academic, vocational).

These results suggest that the PET programme, for all course types, had a positive impact on reoffending, regardless of employment status, and also a positive impact on employment outcomes.

Reoffending

Overall reoffending rates of the treatment and comparison groups

For **100** typical individuals in the **treatment** group, the equivalent of:

18 out of 100 individuals **overall** committed a proven reoffence within a one-year period (a rate of 18%), **4 people fewer** than in the comparison group.



For **100** typical individuals in the **comparison** group, the equivalent of:

23 of the 100 individuals committed a proven reoffence within a one-year period (a rate of 23%).

Overall reoffending estimates of the impact of the intervention

For **100** typical individuals who receive support, compared with 100 similar individuals who do not receive it:

The number of individuals overall who committed a proven reoffence within one year after release **could be lower by four to five individuals**. This is a statistically significant result.

Employment

Overall employment rate of the treatment and comparison groups

For **100** typical individuals in the **treatment** group, the equivalent of:

40 of the 100 individuals **overall** (a rate of 40%) were employed during the one-year period after release, **7 people more** than in the comparison group.



For **100** typical individuals in the **comparison** group, the equivalent of:

33 of the 100 individuals were employed during the one-year period release (a rate of 33%).

Overall employment estimates of the impact of the intervention

For **100** typical individuals who receive support, compared with 100 similar individuals who do not receive it:

The number of individuals **overall** who were in employment within one year after release **could be higher by five to eight individuals**. This is a statistically significant result.

In employment and reoffending

Overall reoffending rates of the treatment and comparison groups	
For 100 typical individuals in the treatment group, the equivalent of:	For 100 typical individuals in the comparison group, the equivalent of:
13 out of 100 individuals who were in employment committed a proven reoffence within a one-year period (a rate of 13%), 5 people fewer than in the comparison group.	 18 of the 100 individuals who were in employment committed a proven reoffence within a one-year period (a rate of 18%).

Overall reoffending estimates of the impact of the intervention
For 100 typical individuals who receive support, compared with 100 similar individuals who do not receive it:
The number of individuals who were in employment and committed a proven reoffence within one year after release could be lower by three to six individuals. This is a statistically significant result.

Not in employment and reoffending

Overall reoffending rates of the treatment and comparison groups	
For 100 typical individuals in the treatment group, the equivalent of:	For 100 typical individuals in the comparison group, the equivalent of:
24 out of 100 individuals who were not in employment committed a proven reoffence within a one-year period (a rate of 24%), 4 people fewer than in the comparison group.	 28 of the 100 individuals who were not in employment committed a proven reoffence within a one-year period (a rate of 28%).

Overall reoffending estimates of the impact of the intervention
For 100 typical individuals who receive support, compared with 100 similar individuals who do not receive it:
The number of individuals who were not in employment and committed a proven reoffence within one year after release could be lower by two to six individuals. This is a statistically significant result.

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Prisoners' Education Trust: in their own words

Prisoners' Education Trust (PET) funds prisoners to study courses via distance learning in subjects and at levels that are not generally available through mainstream education. This includes academic qualifications (such as GCSEs, A Levels, diplomas and modules for first year university study) and a wide range of vocational courses in topics such as business start-up, personal fitness training and plumbing theory. They also fund courses for personal and social development including creative writing or languages. For the period covered by the data in this study, they also funded prisoners for arts and hobby materials (up to a maximum of £60).

PET offers prisoners advice to help them find a course which is suited to their current educational attainment, and matches what they are hoping to achieve from their learning (e.g. an industry recognised qualification if the goal is employment). Applications are considered monthly and funding is awarded to those making the strongest case. The process of recommendations for funding is reviewed by a panel of PET Trustees. PET has been happy to support prisoners on a journey of educational progression, and therefore some prisoners are funded on many occasions.

Distance learning requires an endorsement from education staff, and course completion varies in length. A course typically takes several months to complete and PET generally does not fund a course if a prisoner is within six months of their earliest release date.

Although a prisoner can take their study materials on release, experience has shown that learners struggle to continue self-directed learning immediately post release due to the other pressing demands on them at that time.

Response from Prisoners' Education Trust to the Justice Data Lab analyses

PET is very grateful to the Justice Data Lab team for completing these analyses, especially given the constraints imposed during 2020 by the Covid-19 lockdown. These analyses look at a larger group of PET learners, including later cohorts that were not able to be covered by the earlier Justice Data Lab analyses published in September 2015 and July 2018.

This new analysis confirms the earlier results that, after release from prison, PET participants:

- Reoffended statistically significantly less in the year after release than a matched comparison group of prisoners who didn't participate in the programme and
- Got employment statistically significantly more in the year after release than the matched comparison group.

However in this latest experimental analysis the Justice Data Lab have been able to explore further the relationship between the PET programme, employment and reoffending. In a nutshell, participants in PET's programme are more likely to get a job within one year than prisoners who do not. But even if PET participants do not get a job they are less likely to reoffend within that year than other prisoners who do not get jobs. And if they do get jobs they are even less likely to reoffend than other prisoners who find employment.

This evidence strongly supports the Prisoner Learning Alliance's Theory of Change about the positive impact of education ([Theory-of-Change-Report.pdf](#)). Education in prison helps people to gain employment after release, and that is known from other research to be linked to lower levels of reoffending. But education has benefits in other ways: improved wellbeing, developing personal and social capital, and creating a sense of identity and hope. And these other benefits are also likely to help someone lead a fulfilling life away from crime.

These Justice Data Lab results cannot throw light on the precise factors at work. But they do show that it is not simply getting a job that is important in reducing reoffending (important though that is). PET participants not in work reoffend less in the year after release than other prisoners who do not get jobs. And if they do get jobs, the rate of reoffending for PET participants is even lower than other prisoners who gain employment.

This evidence further strengthens the already strong case for the value of education in custody.

Methodology

The standard Justice Data Lab (JDL) methodology was used for selecting the treatment and comparison groups and for estimating the impact of the intervention programme, including a set of employment and benefit measures which were also run alongside the existing reoffending outcome measures.

Further information on the JDL methodology can be found in the methodology paper, published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/justice-data-lab>

Measures

Reoffending and employment

Reoffending start and end dates were used to identify spells that coincided with the one-year period for each offender after their release from prison.

P45¹ employment start and end dates were used to identify employment spells that coincided with the one-year period for each offender after their release from prison. Further information about the measure can be found in **Annex A** of this report. This information was provided as part of a data-share agreement with HMRC and DWP². 42% of records (3,758) were excluded from the overall employment treatment group as they did not have matching employment data within the relevant period.

Headline measures:

1. The **overall reoffending rate** includes those who committed a proven reoffence at any point during the one-year period.
2. The **overall employment rate** includes those who held employment at any point during the one-year period, for any length of time.
3. The **employment and reoffending rate** includes those who were employed at any point during the one-year period, for any length of time, and committed a proven reoffence during this window.

¹ P45 employment relates to the PAYE P45 form that an employee receives from their employer when they stop working for them. The HMRC P45 dataset used for this analysis includes the start date of each employment spell for matched offenders. P45 employment does not include self-employment, or cash-in-hand work, and some low paid employment may also be excluded.

² The MoJ/DWP/HMRC data share considered 4.2 million offenders who received at least one caution or conviction for an offence recorded in England or Wales on the Police National Computer (PNC) between 2000 and mid-2015, and who were successfully matched to at least one (National Benefits Database) benefit and/or P45 employment record during the 2014/15 financial year. They must also have been of working age at some point during the period analysed. Further details of the data share and methodology can be found in the accompanying annex.

4. The **not in employment and reoffending rate** includes those who were not employed at any point during the one-year period, and committed a proven reoffence during this window.

Results in detail

Thirteen analyses were conducted in total, controlling for offender demographics and criminal history and the following risks and needs: employment history, education, drug use, alcohol use, behaviour, thinking skills, and attitudes.

In all cases, the treatment group was matched to offenders from across England and Wales using demographics, release years, criminal history, and individual risks and needs.

Analyses

a) Overall reoffending

The overall reoffending rate in the year following release from prison, the number of reoffences and the time to first reoffence were compared for those who had received a grant from PET and a matched comparison group who had not received a grant.

b) Overall employment

The overall employment rate, covering those who held employment at any point in the year following release from prison, was compared for those who had received a grant from PET and for a matched comparison group who had not received a grant.

The overall employment rate, for those who held employment at any point during the one-year period, was calculated for those who had received three different types of grants from PET:

- i) Those who received a grant to participate in a course provided by the Open University;
- ii) Those who received a grant to participate in an academic course other than those provided by the Open University; and
- iii) Those who received a grant to participate in a vocational course.

Each one was compared to the overall employment rate of a matched comparison group who had not received a grant.

c) In employment and reoffending

The overall reoffending rate in the year following release from prison, the number of reoffences and the time to first reoffence were calculated for the subset of those who had received a grant from PET, who had employment at any time during that time period. These were compared to the reoffending behaviours of a matched comparison group who also had employment, and no grant from PET.

The overall reoffending rate among those who held employment at any point during the one-year period was calculated for those who had received three different types of grants from PET:

- i) Those who received a grant to participate in a course provided by the Open University;
- ii) Those who received a grant to participate in an academic course other than those provided by the Open University; and
- iii) Those who received a grant to participate in a vocational course.

Each one was compared to the overall reoffending rate of a matched comparison group who were also in employment at any point in the time period, and had not received a grant.

d) Not in employment and reoffending

The overall reoffending rate in the year following release from prison, the number of reoffences and the time to first reoffence were calculated for the subset of those who had received a grant from PET, who had no employment at any time during the one-year period after release. These were compared to the reoffending behaviours of a matched comparison group who also had no employment, and no grant from PET.

The overall reoffending rate among those with no employment at any time during the one-year period after release was calculated for those who had received three different types of grants from PET:

- i) Those who received a grant to participate in a course provided by the Open University;
- ii) Those who received a grant to participate in an academic course other than those provided by the Open University; and
- iii) Those who received a grant to participate in a vocational course.

Each one was compared to the overall reoffending rate of a matched comparison group who also had no employment, and had not received a grant.

The headline results in this report refer to the overall reoffending, overall employment, in employment and reoffending, and not in employment and reoffending analyses.

Treatment and comparison group sizes³

The sizes of the treatment and comparison groups for the analyses are provided below. All analysis groups were controlled for region.

Reoffending

Analyses	Treatment group Size	Comparison group Size	Reoffenders in treatment group	Reoffenders in comparison group
a) Overall reoffending	9,041	183,073	1,662	41,710

Employment⁴⁵⁶

Analyses	Treatment group size	Comparison group size	Number in employment in treatment group	Number in employment in comparison group	Number not in employment in treatment group	Number not in employment in comparison group
b) Overall employment	5,288	80,601	2,128	26,909	3,160	53,692
bi) Open University	1,139	44,486	522	15,935	617	28,551
bii) Other academic	534	111,112	227	37,191	307	73,921
biii) Vocational	3,139	62,229	1,257	20,858	1,882	41,371

³ Where an individual completed more than one course in the same sentence, analysis for the most recent course was considered. Furthermore, a number of duplicate records were excluded from analyses where an individual had already received a PET grant earlier in the same sentence.

Deduplication was performed later for the individual course type sub-analysis however, to make sure that people who were eligible to fall into more than one course type analysis were not excluded.

⁴ Differences between treatment and comparison group sizes between analyses b and c are due to weighting at the Propensity Score Matching stage across separate models. For the treatment groups, this difference is <1%.

⁵ Within b, c and d sub analyses i-iii, the comparison group size for each analysis does not add up to or correlate with the overall comparison group size.

⁶ Course type information is missing in a number of participants.

In employment and reoffending

Analyses	Treatment group size	Comparison group size	Reoffenders in treatment group	Reoffenders in comparison group
c) In employment and reoffending	2,119	21,751	271	3,815
ci) Open University	520	15,383	66	3,959
cii) Other academic	226	18,521	35	5,267
ciii) Vocational	1,254	15,070	143	3,581

Not in employment and reoffending

Analyses	Treatment group size	Comparison group size	Reoffenders in treatment group	Reoffenders in comparison group
d) Not in employment and reoffending	3,158	45,116	773	12,854
di) Open University	622	44,702	116	21,054
dii) Other academic	307	79,851	84	44,446
diii) Vocational	1,882	60,159	447	30,399

Significant results

24 measures show statistically significant results. These provide significant evidence that:

Overall reoffending

- Overall, **participants were less likely to commit a reoffence** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants.
- Overall, **participants committed fewer reoffences** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants.
- Overall, **participants who reoffend within a one-year period committed their first reoffence later** than non-participants.

Overall employment

- Overall, **participants were more likely to be employed** at some point during the one-year period after their release from prison than non-participants.

Overall employment by course type

- **Participants who received a grant for an Open University course were more likely to be employed** at some point during the one-year period after their release from prison than non-participants.
- **Participants who received a grant for an academic course other than those provided by the Open University were more likely to be employed** at some point during the one-year period after their release from prison than non-participants.
- **Participants who received a grant for a vocational course were more likely to be employed** at some point during the one-year period after their release from prison than non-participants.

In employment and reoffending

- **Participants who were in employment were less likely to commit a reoffence** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were in employment.
- **Participants who were in employment committed fewer reoffences** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were in employment.

In employment and reoffending by course type

- **Participants who received a grant for an Open University course and were employed were less likely to commit a reoffence** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were employed.
- **Participants who received a grant for an Open University course and were employed committed fewer reoffences** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were employed.
- **Participants who received a grant for an academic course other than those provided by the Open University and were employed were less likely to commit a reoffence** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were employed.

- **Participants who received a grant for an academic course other than those provided by the Open University and were employed committed fewer reoffences** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were employed.
- **Participants who received a grant for a vocational course and were employed were less likely to commit a reoffence** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were employed.
- **Participants who received a grant for a vocational course and were employed committed fewer reoffences** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were employed.

Not in employment and reoffending

- **Participants who were not in employment were less likely to commit a reoffence** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were not in employment.
- **Participants who were not in employment committed fewer reoffences** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were not in employment.
- **Participants who were not in employment and reoffended within a one-year period committed their first reoffence later** than non-participants who were not in employment.

Not in employment and reoffending by course type

- **Participants who received a grant for an Open University course and were not employed were less likely to commit a reoffence** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were not employed.
- **Participants who received a grant for an Open University course and were not employed committed fewer reoffences** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were not employed.
- **Participants who received a grant for an academic course other than those provided by the Open University and were not employed were less likely to commit a reoffence** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were not employed.
- **Participants who received a grant for a vocational course and were not employed were less likely to commit a reoffence** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were not employed.
- **Participants who received a grant for a vocational course and were not employed committed fewer reoffences** during the one-year period after release from prison than non-participants who were not employed.
- **Participants who received a grant for a vocational course, were not employed and reoffended within a one-year period committed their first reoffence later** than non-participants who were not employed.

Reoffending Results

Tables 1 to 3 show the overall measures for reoffending. Rates are expressed as percentages and frequencies expressed per person. Table 3 includes reoffenders only.

Table 1: Proportion of people who committed a proven reoffence in a one-year period after release from prison following support from Prisoners' Education Trust, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending rate				
			Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
a) Overall reoffending	9,041	183,073	18	23	-5 to -4	Yes	<0.01

Table 2: Number of proven reoffences committed in a one-year period after release from prison by people who received support from Prisoners' Education Trust, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending frequency (offences per person)				
			Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
a) Overall reoffending	9,041	183,073	0.49	0.68	-15 to -22	Yes	<0.01

Table 3: Average time to first proven reoffence in a one-year period after release from prison for people who received support from Prisoners' Education Trust, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	Average time to first proven reoffence in a one-year period, for reoffenders only (days)				
			Treatment group time	Comparison group time	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
a) Overall reoffending	1,662	86,225	169	159	5 to 15	Yes	<0.01

✓ What you can say about the one-year reoffending rate:

“This analysis provides evidence that support from Prisoners' Education Trust may decrease the number of proven reoffenders during a one-year period.”

✗ What you cannot say about the one-year reoffending rate:

“This analysis shows that support from Prisoners' Education Trust increases/has no effect on the reoffending rate of its participants.”

✓ What you can say about the one-year reoffending frequency:

“This analysis provides evidence that support from Prisoners' Education Trust may decrease the number of proven reoffences during a one-year period.”

✗ What you cannot say about the one-year reoffending frequency:

“This analysis shows that support from Prisoners' Education Trust increases/has no effect on the number of reoffences committed by its participants.”

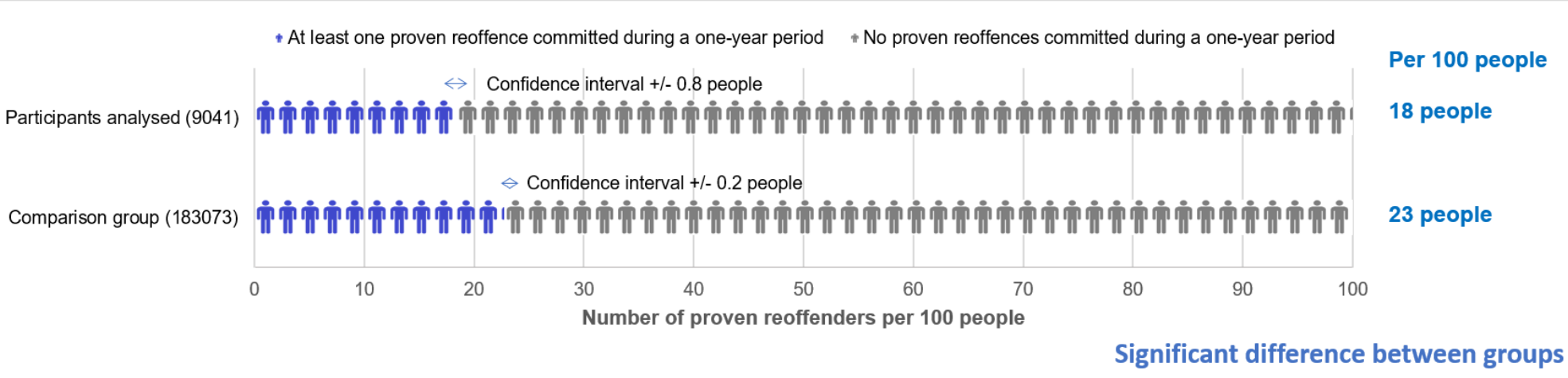
✓ What you can say about the time to first reoffence:

“This analysis provides evidence that support from Prisoners' Education Trust may lengthen the average time to first proven reoffence for its participants.”

✗ What you cannot say about the time to first reoffence:

“This analysis provides evidence that support from Prisoners' Education Trust shortens/has no effect on the average time to first proven reoffence for its participants.”

a) One-year proven reoffending rate after support from Prisoners' Education Trust



Employment Results

Table 4 shows the overall measure for employment after release from custody. Rates are expressed as percentages.

Table 4: Proportion of people who were in employment in a one-year period after release from prison following support from Prisoners' Education Trust, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year employment rate				
			Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
b) Overall	5,288	80,601	40	33	5 to 8	Yes	<0.01
bi) Open University	1,139	44,486	46	36	7 to 13	Yes	<0.01
bii) Other Academic	534	111,112	43	33	5 to 13	Yes	<0.01
biii) Vocational	3,139	62,229	40	34	5 to 8	Yes	<0.01

✓ What you can say about the one-year employment rate:

“This analysis provides evidence that support from Prisoners' Education Trust may increase the number of people in employment during a one-year period.”

✗ What you cannot say about the one-year employment rate:

“This analysis shows that support from Prisoners' Education Trust decreases/has no effect on the employment rate of its participants.”

b) Overall one-year employment rate after support from Prisoner' Education Trust



In employment and reoffending results

Tables 5 to 7 show the measures for reoffending of those in employment during the one-year period after release from prison. Rates are expressed as percentages and frequencies expressed per person. Table 7 includes reoffenders only.

Table 5: Proportion of people who were in employment and committed a proven reoffence in a one-year period after release from prison following support from Prisoners' Education Trust, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending rate				
			Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
c) In employment and reoffending	2,119	21,751	13	18	-6 to -3	Yes	<0.01
ci) Open University	520	15,383	13	17	-7 to -1	Yes	<0.01
cii) Other academic	226	18,521	15	22	-11 to -1	Yes	0.01
ciii) Vocational	1,254	15,070	11	16	-6 to -3	Yes	<0.01

Table 6: Number of proven reoffences committed in a one-year period after release from prison by people who were in employment and received support from Prisoners' Education Trust, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending frequency (offences per person)				
			Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
c) In employment and reoffending	2,119	21,751	0.28	0.46	-22 to -13	Yes	<0.01
ci) Open University	520	15,383	0.27	0.46	-27 to -11	Yes	<0.01
cii) Other academic	226	18,521	0.33	0.66	-47 to -18	Yes	<0.01
ciii) Vocational	1,254	15,070	0.26	0.41	-22 to -9	Yes	<0.01

Table 7: Average time to first proven reoffence in a one-year period after release from prison by people who were in employment and received support from Prisoners' Education Trust, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	Average time to first proven reoffence in a one-year period, for reoffenders only (days)				
			Treatment group time	Comparison group time	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
c) In employment and reoffending	271	6,615	193	182	-1 to 23	No	0.08
ci) Open University	66	3,959	198	173	-1 to 51	No	0.06
cii) Other academic	35	5,267	186	167	-18 to 56	No	0.30
ciii) Vocational	143	3,581	198	185	-3 to 28	No	0.11

✓ **What you can say about the one-year reoffending rate:**

“This analysis provides evidence that support from Prisoners' Education Trust may decrease the number of proven reoffenders during a one-year period amongst individuals who are employed at any time within the same period.”

✗ **What you cannot say about the one-year reoffending rate:**

“This analysis shows that support from Prisoners' Education Trust increases/has no effect on the reoffending rate of participants who are employed at any time in the one-year period.”

✓ **What you can say about the one-year reoffending frequency:**

“This analysis provides evidence that support from Prisoners' Education Trust may decrease the number of proven reoffences during a one-year period amongst individuals who are employed at any time in the one-year period.”

✗ **What you cannot say about the one-year reoffending frequency:**

“This analysis shows that support from Prisoners' Education Trust increases/has no effect on the number of reoffences committed by participants who are employed at any time in the one-year period.”

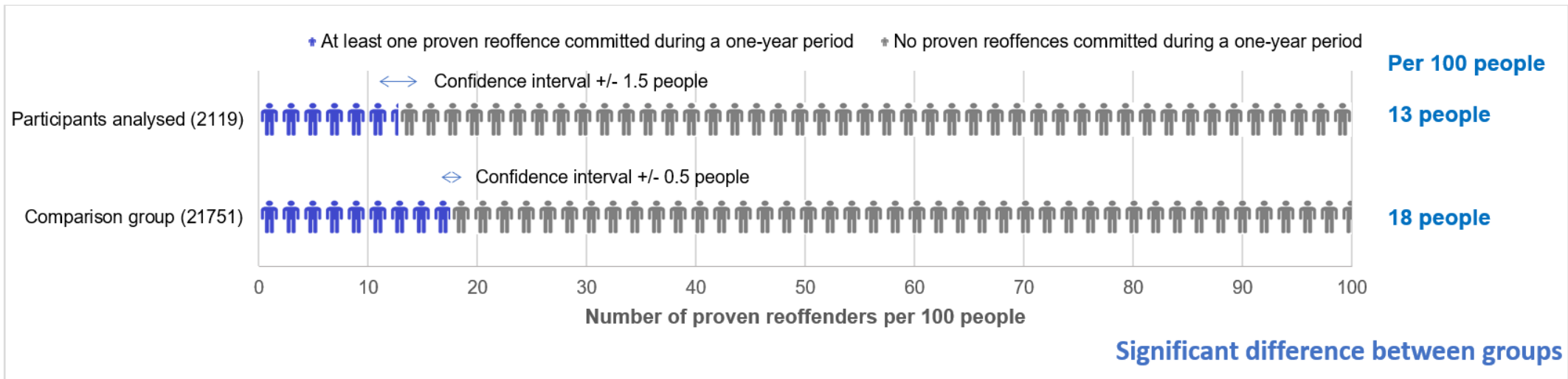
✓ **What you can say about the time to first reoffence:**

“This analysis would need more participants in order to show whether support from Prisoners' Education Trust shortens or lengthens the average time to first proven reoffence for participants who are employed at any time in the one-year period”

✗ **What you cannot say about the time to first reoffence:**

“This analysis shows that support from Prisoners' Education Trust increases/decreases/has no effect on the average time to first proven reoffence for participants who are employed at any time in the one-year period”

c) One-year proven reoffending rate after support from Prisoners' Education Trust – In employment



Not in employment and reoffending results

Tables 8 to 10 show the measures for reoffending of those not in employment during the one-year period after release from prison. Rates are expressed as percentages and frequencies expressed per person. Table 10 includes reoffenders only.

Table 8: Proportion of people who were not in employment and committed a proven reoffence in a one-year period after release from prison following support from Prisoners' Education Trust, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending rate				
			Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
d) Not in employment and reoffending	3,158	45,116	24	28	-6 to -2	Yes	<0.01
di) Open University	622	44,702	19	24	-8 to -2	Yes	<0.01
dii) Other academic	307	79,851	27	33	-11 to -1	Yes	0.02
diii) Vocational	1,882	60,159	24	29	-7 to -3	Yes	<0.01

Table 9: Number of proven reoffences committed in a one-year period after release from prison by people who were not in employment and received support from Prisoners' Education Trust, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One-year proven reoffending frequency (offences per person)				
			Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
d) Not in employment and reoffending	3,158	45,116	0.67	0.84	-24 to -11	Yes	<0.01
di) Open University	622	44,702	0.48	0.67	-3 to -1	Yes	<0.01
dii) Other academic	307	79,851	0.96	1.16	-48 to 7	No	0.15
diii) Vocational	1,882	60,159	0.61	0.84	-30 to -16	Yes	<0.01

Table 10: Average time to first proven reoffence in a one-year period after release from prison by people who were not in employment and received support from Prisoners' Education Trust, compared with matched comparison groups

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	Average time to first proven reoffence in a one-year period, for reoffenders only (days)				
			Treatment group time	Comparison group time	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
d) Not in employment and reoffending	773	20,600	167	159	1 to 16	Yes	0.03
di) Open University	116	21,054	180	162	-1 to 37	No	0.07
dii) Other academic	84	44,446	156	145	-12 to 34	No	0.35
diii) Vocational	447	30,399	170	159	1 to 21	Yes	0.03

✓ **What you can say about the one-year reoffending rate:**

“This analysis provides evidence that support from Prisoners' Education Trust may decrease the number of proven reoffenders during a one-year period amongst individuals who are not employed within the same period.”

✗ **What you cannot say about the one-year reoffending rate:**

“This analysis shows that support from Prisoners' Education Trust increases/has no effect on the reoffending rate of participants who are not employed within the one-year period.”

✓ **What you can say about the one-year reoffending frequency:**

“This analysis provides evidence that support from Prisoners' Education Trust may decrease the number of proven reoffences during a one-year period amongst individuals who are not employed within the same period.”

✗ **What you cannot say about the one-year reoffending frequency:**

“This analysis shows that support from Prisoners' Education Trust increases/has no effect on the number of reoffences committed by participants who are not employed within the one-year period.”

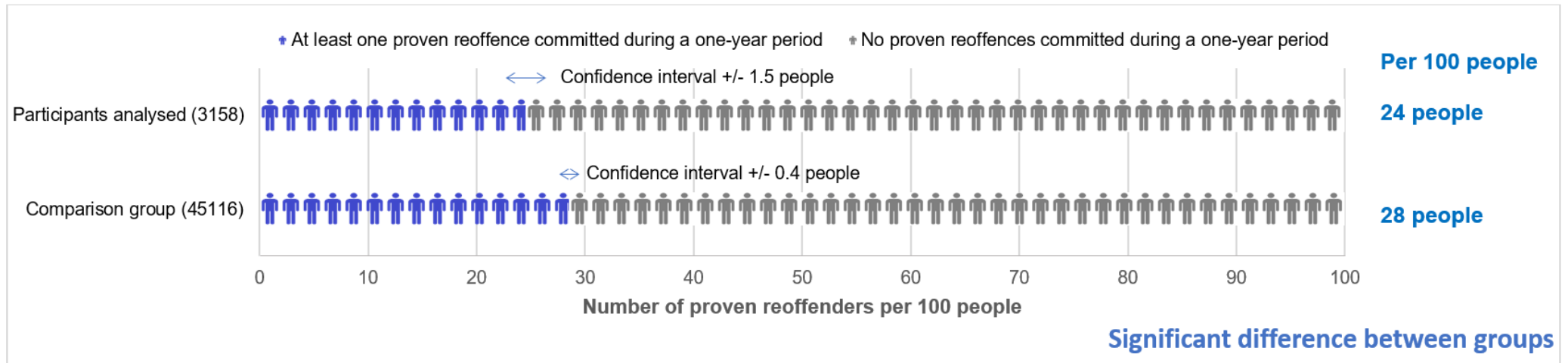
✓ **What you can say about the time to first reoffence:**

“This analysis provides evidence that support from Prisoners' Education Trust may lengthen the average time to first proven reoffence for participants who are not employed within the one-year period.”

✗ **What you cannot say about the time to first reoffence:**

“This analysis provides evidence that support from Prisoners' Education Trust shortens/has no effect on the average time to first proven reoffence for participants who are not employed within the one-year period.”

d) One-year proven reoffending rate after support from Prisoners' Education Trust – Not in employment



Profile of the overall reoffending treatment group

Information on those who were included in the treatment group for the headline reoffending analysis is below, compared with the characteristics of those who could not be included in this analysis. All other reoffending analyses in this report used a subgroup of those detailed below.

Participants included (9,046 offenders in the overall reoffending group before Propensity Score Matching (PSM) stage)

- Male 91%, Female 9%
- White 71%, Black 20%, Asian 6%, Other ethnicity 1%, Unknown ethnicity 2%
- UK national 92%, Non-UK nationality 4%, Unknown nationality 4%
- Aged 18 to 78 years at the beginning of their one-year period (average age 34)
- Sentence length:
 - Less than 1 year 0%
 - 1 to 4 years 30%
 - 4 to 10 years 55%
 - More than 10 years 7%
 - IPP, mandatory life imprisonment or other life sentence 8%

Participants not included in analysis (5,205 offender records with available data)*

- Male 96%, Female 4%
- White 72%, Black 21%, Asian 5%, Other ethnicity 1%, Unknown ethnicity 2%
- UK national 87%, Non-UK nationality 8%, Unknown nationality 4%

Information on index offences is not available for this group, as they could not be linked to a suitable sentence.

*** Note that this includes offenders who completed multiple courses in the same sentence (see footnote page 12).**

Please note totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts due to rounding.

Information on individual risks and needs was available for 4,858 people in the overall reoffending analysis treatment group (53%), recorded near to the time of their original conviction. Of those for whom information is available:

- 43% had limited problem-solving skills
- 39% had problems with drug use
- 27% had problems with achieving goals

Profile of the overall employment treatment group

Information on those who were included in the treatment group for the headline employment analysis is below, compared with the characteristics of those who could not be included in this analysis. All other employment analyses in this report used a subgroup of those detailed below.

Participants included (5,292 offenders in the overall employment analysis, before the PSM stage)

- Male 92%, Female 8%
- White 72%, Black 20%, Asian 6%, Other ethnicity 1%, Unknown ethnicity 2%
- UK national 94%, Non-UK nationality 3%, Unknown nationality 3%
- Aged 18 to 64 years at the beginning of their one-year period (average age 33)
- Sentence length:
 - Less than 1 year 0%
 - 1 to 4 years 34%
 - 4 to 10 years 57%
 - More than 10 years 5%
 - IPP, mandatory life imprisonment or other life sentence 4%

Participants not included in analysis (3,712 offender records with available data)

- Male 92%, Female 8%
- White 70%, Black 21%, Asian 7%, Other ethnicity 1%, Unknown ethnicity 2%
- UK national 88%, Non-UK nationality 6%, Unknown nationality 6%

Information on index offences is not available for this group, as they could not be linked to a suitable sentence.

Please note totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts due to rounding.

Information on individual risks and needs was available for 2,988 people in the overall employment analysis treatment group (56%), recorded near to the time of their original conviction. Of those for whom information is available:

- 46% had limited problem-solving skills
- 43% had problems with drug use
- 29% had problems with achieving goals

Matching the treatment and comparison groups

The analyses matched comparison groups to the treatment groups. A summary of the matching quality is as follows:

- Most variables in the *Overall reoffending* analysis were well matched.
- All variables in the *Overall employment* analysis were well matched.
- Most variables in the *In employment and reoffending* analysis were well matched.
- All variables in the *Not in employment and reoffending* analysis were well matched.

Further details of group characteristics and matching quality, including risks and needs recorded by the Offender Assessment System (OASys), can be found in the Excel annex accompanying this report.

This report is also supplemented by a general annex, which answers frequently asked questions about Justice Data Lab analyses and explains the caveats associated with them.

Numbers of people in the treatment and comparison groups

23,377 grant records were submitted for analysis by Prisoners' Education Trust. In some instances, multiple grants had been awarded to one person within a sentence.

23,377

888 grant records were excluded because the person they were awarded to could not be identified on the Police National Computer.

22,489

11,124 grant records were excluded because they could not be identified in the reoffending databases at the time of the intervention. A number of these are likely to still be in prison.

11,365

2,319 of these grants were found to have been awarded to people who received another PET grant later in the same sentence, so these duplicates were excluded.¹

9,046

5 people were excluded because they did not match at the Propensity Score Matching stage

9,041

3,754 people were excluded because there was no record of their employment status. 4 did not match at the Propensity Score Matching stage.

5,288

a) Overall reoffending treatment group:
(Comparison group: 183,073 records)

b) Overall treatment group analysed by employment:
(Comparison group: 80,601 records)

11 people were excluded because they did not match at the Propensity Score Matching stage

2,119

3,158

c) In employment and reoffending treatment group
(Comparison group: 21,751 records)

d) Not in employment and reoffending treatment group
(Comparison group: 45,116 records)

¹ Deduplication was performed later for the employment broken down by course type analysis, to make sure that people who were eligible to fall into more than one course type analysis were not excluded.

Contact Points

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office: 02033 343 536

Other enquiries about the analysis should be directed to:

Annie Sorbie

Justice Data Lab Team

Ministry of Justice

7th Floor

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

Tel: 07967 592178

E-mail: justice.datalab@justice.gov.uk

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to:

statistics.enquiries@justice.gov.uk

General information about the official statistics system of the United Kingdom is available from

www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk

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Alternative formats are available on request from justice.datalab@justice.gov.uk

Annex A

Further information on the measures used in the analyses can be found in the tables below.

Employment and out-of-work benefits measures	
One-year employment rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses linked data from an existing cross-government administrative data share with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), linking offender data to P45 employment data. The data share includes 4.2 million offenders who have at least one PNC record for an offence in England and Wales, and were also of working age at some point over the period 01/01/2000 to 30/11/2014.• Data on each employment spell is included by HMRC from the start of the spell, and an end date is added when the spell finishes. If no end date is included, it is assumed that employment is ongoing and a dummy end date after the end of the analysis period is used. P14 data has not been used to validate whether any of these spells ended sooner.• P45 employment excludes some individuals who held non-P45 employment e.g. self-employed, those paid cash in hand and those in low paid employment.• No minimum length of spell required to be included as a valid employment term.• Employment spells that began before the offender's release date from prison were not excluded.• All offenders were of working age across the analysis period.