



This analysis looked at the reoffending behaviour of 395 people who took part as advisors in the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme after receiving a custodial or community sentence. The results show that participants who reoffended did so later than non-participants. More participants would need to be available for analysis in order to determine the way in which the programme affects the rate and frequency of reoffending, but this should not be taken to mean that the programme fails to affect it.

The St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme is a mentoring intervention that trains offenders and non-offenders as advisors, teaching them to assist their peers in accessing support services that will help those peers to address their own needs. It aims to increase support to offenders and to give qualifications and mentoring experience to advisors as a route into employment.

This analysis of the Peer Advisor Programme measured proven reoffences in a one year period for a 'treatment group' of 395 offenders who took part as advisors at some time between 2003 and 2015, and for a much larger 'comparison group' of similar offenders who did not take part. These measurements were used to estimate the impact that the programme would be expected to have on the reoffending behaviour of any people who are similar to those in the analysis.

The 395 people who were eligible to be included in the main analysis were from a group of 1,948 records submitted to the Justice Data Lab. The programme may have had a different impact on the people who were not analysed, some of whom may not have received any recent sentences.

Overall measurements of the treatment and comparison groups

For any 100 typical people in the treatment group*:

For any 100 typical people in the comparison group:

↑ 19 of the 100 people committed a proven re-offence in a one year period (a rate of 19.5%), 3 people fewer than in the comparison group

23 of the 100 people committed a proven reoffence in a one year period (a rate of 22.8%)

⚖️ ↓ 50 proven reoffences were committed by the 100 people during the year (a frequency of 0.5 offences per person), 14 offences fewer than in the comparison group




64 proven reoffences were committed by the 100 people during the year (a frequency of 0.6 offences per person)

📅 ↑ 187 days was the average time before a re-offender committed their first proven reoffence, 30 days later than in the comparison group

157 days was the average time before a reoffender committed their first proven reoffence

Overall estimates of the impact of the intervention

For any **100** typical people who receive the intervention, compared with any **100** similar people who do not receive it:

-  The number of people who commit a proven reoffence during one year after release could be **lower by as much as 7 people, or higher by as much as 1 person**. It is estimated that 1,883 offenders would need to be available for analysis in order to determine the direction of this difference.
-  The number of proven reoffences committed during the year could be **lower by as much as 29 offences, or higher by as much as 1 offence**. More offenders would need to be available for analysis in order to determine the direction of this difference.
-  On average, the time before a reoffender commits their first proven reoffence could be **longer by between 7 and 52 days**. **This is a statistically significant result.**

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

What you can say about the one year reoffending rate:

- ✓ "This analysis provides evidence that, for every 100 advisors, the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme may decrease the number of proven reoffenders during a one year period by up to 7 people, or may increase it by up to 1 person."

What you cannot say about the one year reoffending rate:

- ✗ "This analysis shows that the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme increases/decreases/has no effect on the one year proven reoffending rate of its advisors."

What you can say about the one year reoffending frequency:

- ✓ "This analysis provides evidence that, for every 100 advisors, the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme may decrease the number of proven reoffences during a one year period by up to 29 offences, or may increase it by up to 1 offence."

What you cannot say about the one year reoffending frequency:

- ✗ "This analysis shows that the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme increases/decreases/has no effect on the one year proven reoffending frequency of its advisors."

What you can say about the time to first reoffence:

- ✓ "This analysis provides evidence that, for advisors who reoffend during a one year period, the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme may increase the average time to first proven reoffence by between 7 and 52 days."

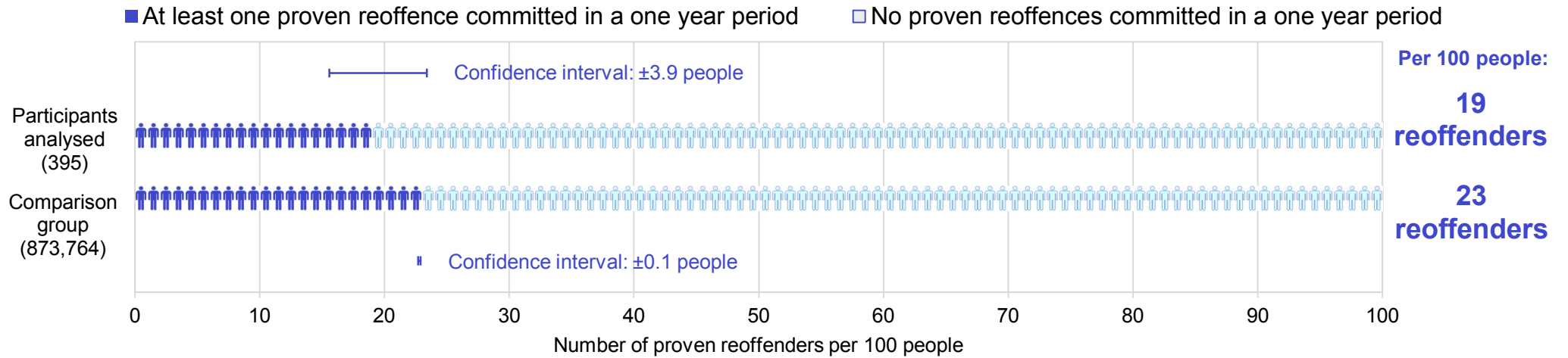
What you cannot say about the time to first reoffence:

- ✗ "This analysis shows that the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme increases the average time to first reoffence of its advisors by 52 days."

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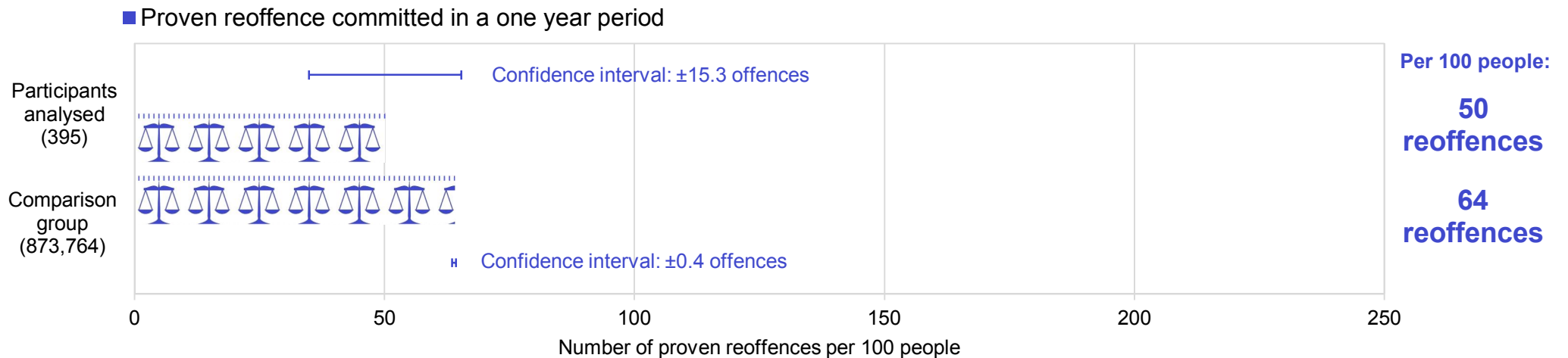
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One year proven reoffending rate after participation as an advisor in the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme



Non-significant difference between groups

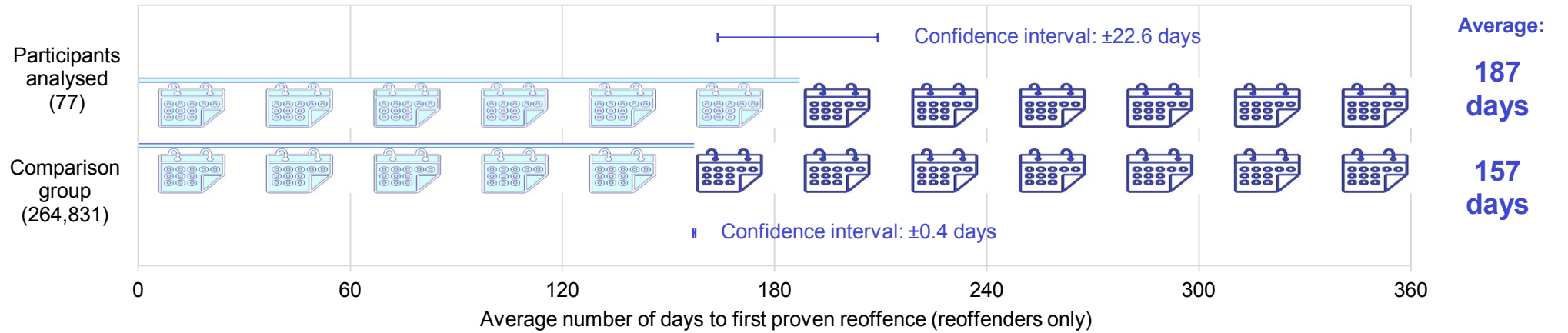
One year proven reoffending frequency after participation as an advisor in the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme



Non-significant difference between groups

Average time to first proven reoffence after participation as an advisor in the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme

□ Time before first proven reoffence committed in a one year period ■ Time after first proven reoffence committed in a one year period



Significant difference between groups

St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme: in their own words

“ The St Giles Trust Peer Advice Programme trains and supports offenders to provide a range of advice and guidance to their peers. A peer advisor is trained to identify the needs of other offenders and then support them to access the appropriate services to meet those needs. They will also provide direct interventions, such as helping them apply for jobs, training courses or local authority assistance.

The St Giles Trust Peer Advice Programme expanded geographically in 2002 and has been delivered in prisons and in the community across England and Wales, including in women's prisons and Young Offender Institutions. Peer advisors usually begin their role during a prison sentence, and after release they can join a range of voluntary and paid roles with St Giles Trust in the community. Some advisors begin their role after release from prison or following a non-custodial sentence, and some begin it a long time after their last sentence or after receiving no sentence.

Peer advisors have the opportunity to gain a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 Certificate in Advice and Guidance while participating in the programme. This qualification, combined with their working experience, helps those advisors who are prisoners to gain employment on release. Typically, it takes an offender 6 months to complete the programme and gain the qualification. They would be working as a peer advisor throughout this time and building up a portfolio of evidence based on real work, as well as attending taught modules relating to advice work such as understanding current legislation. Advisors who are prisoners hold a responsible and trusted role in the prison and are authorised by prison security. They are accessible to other prisoners and provide high-quality information, advice and guidance, and also refer offenders to prison and provider services that meet their individual needs, e.g. housing, employment, health, drug and alcohol services. Advisors provide a critical support function for new prisoners during induction, and, for prisoners approaching release, during their preparation for the resettlement.

St Giles Trust has an open recruitment process and advertise the programme as widely as possible through any means available, e.g. through Radio Wanno in HMP Wandsworth. St Giles Trust trainers and caseworkers shortlist the applicants, who are then risk-assessed by the prison security department in custody or by our Human Resources team in the community. The remaining applicants are then interviewed by a St Giles Trust trainer or caseworker or a relevant member of prison staff. ”

St Giles Trust's response to the Justice Data Lab analysis

“ St Giles Trust is grateful for the Ministry of Justice Data Lab’s analysis of our Peer Advisor Programme. Being able to access statutory data is gold dust for charities brave enough to put their heads above the parapet and who are trying, all too often in extremely challenging circumstances, to help tens of thousands of clients turn their lives around. The headline number sees a reoffending rate that is 3.3 percentage points lower than comparable offenders, as well as 0.14 fewer reoffences per person and an average of 30 days longer to reoffend. We have found that our Peer Advisor model, using lived experiences when blended with meaningful training, rigorous management and access into paid employment to be the best resource in breaking the cycle of offending. This resource being these reformed, highly motivated and credible caseworkers – who go that all important extra mile for their clients and inject a huge amount of compassion, time and care into delivering our award winning services. We are proud of the multiplier effect this model brings and the vast savings to the tax payer. The national reoffending rates remain alarmingly high, we are proud in playing our small part in helping make reform and rehabilitation possible, especially to our target group – those most isolated, vulnerable, chaotic and who have actively disengaged from mainstream society. ”

The results in detail

Three analyses were conducted in total. Each analysis controlled for offender demographics, criminal history, accommodation status, employment and benefit history, relationships, drug and alcohol use, mental health, thinking skills, attitudes towards others and attitudes towards offending.

Overall analysis

The treatment group in the overall analysis contains all peer advisors whose details could be matched to suitable sentences.

- 1. Overall analysis:** treatment group matched to offenders across England and Wales. The members of the treatment group were based in regions across England and Wales, so they were not matched to a regional comparison group.

Wandsworth Prison analyses

The treatment groups in the Wandsworth Prison analyses contain only people who became peer advisors during or, in one case, following a sentence served in Wandsworth Prison, London.

- 2. Wandsworth Prison national analysis:** treatment group matched to offenders across England and Wales.
- 3. Wandsworth Prison regional analysis:** treatment group matched to offenders based in Greater London only.

The headline results in this report refer to the overall analysis

The sizes of the treatment and comparison groups for the reoffending rate, frequency and time to first reoffence measures are provided below:

Analysis		Controlled for region	Treatment group size	Reoffenders in treatment group	Comparison group size	Reoffenders in comparison group
Overall			395	77	873,764	264,831
Wandsworth Prison	National		39	7	55,263	15,422
	Regional	X	39	7	10,123	2,853

In each analysis, the **three headline measures** of one year reoffending were analysed, as well as five additional measures (see results in Tables 1-7):

1. **Reoffending rate**
2. **Reoffending frequency**
3. **Average time to first reoffence**
4. Rate of first reoffence by court outcome
5. Frequency of reoffences by court outcome
6. Rate of custodial sentencing for first reoffence
7. Frequency of custodial sentencing

Measures 3-7 include reoffenders only. They have not been included in this report for the Wandsworth analyses, because the numbers within each category were too small to make reliable estimates.

Measures 4 and 5 are new and aim to provide greater detail to users on reoffending outcomes, and the Justice Data Lab welcomes feedback on them to ensure that they are as useful as possible. These measures group reoffences according to their court outcome: indictable-only offences are the most serious and must be tried at a Crown Court, triable-either-way offences ('Either way') may be tried at a Crown Court or a magistrates' court, and summary offences are usually tried at a magistrates' court.

Significant results

Three measures show a statistically significant result in the overall analysis. These provide significant evidence that:

- **Participants who reoffend within a one year period commit their first proven reoffence later, on average,** when compared with non-participants (Table 3).
- **Participants who reoffend within a one year period are less likely to receive a custodial sentence for their first proven reoffence** when compared with non-participants (Table 6).
- **Participants who reoffend within a one year period receive fewer custodial sentences during the year** when compared with non-participants (Table 7).

Tables 1-3 show the headline measures of reoffending. Rates are expressed as percentages and frequencies are expressed per person. The average time to first reoffence includes reoffenders only.

Table 1: Proportion of advisors in the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme who committed a proven reoffence in a one year period, compared with similar non-participants

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
Overall	395	873,764	19.5	22.8	-7 to +1	No	0.10
Wandsworth							
National	39	55,263	17.9	26.7	-21 to +4	No	0.17 *
Regional	39	10,123	17.9	31.2	-26 to -1	No	0.04 *

* As the Wandsworth treatment group contained only 7 re-offenders, the p-values marked with asterisks are not reliable indicators of statistical significance. A statistical test designed for rates with small numbers of people showed that these results were not significant.

Table 2: Number of proven reoffences committed in a one year period by advisors in the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme, compared with similar non-participants

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
Overall	395	873,764	0.5	0.6	-0.3 to +0.01	No	0.08
Wandsworth							
National	39	55,263	0.5	0.8	-0.7 to +0.2	No	0.32
Regional	39	10,123	0.5	0.9	-0.8 to +0.1	No	0.12

Table 3: Average time to first proven reoffence for advisors in the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme, compared with similar non-participants (reoffenders only)

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	Average time to first proven reoffence within a one year period, for reoffenders only (days)				
			Treatment group time	Comparison group time	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
Overall	77	264,831	187	157	+7 to +52	Yes	0.01

Tables 4-5 show the court outcomes of reoffending, for reoffenders only. Indictable-only offences are the most serious and must be tried at a Crown Court, summary offences are the least serious and are usually tried at a magistrates' court, and triable-either-way offences ('Either way') can be tried at either type of court.

Table 4: Proportion of advisors in the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme whose first proven reoffence received each court outcome, compared with similar non-participants (reoffenders only; the indictable-only category is excluded as low numbers prevent a reliable estimate of difference)

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One year proven reoffending rate by court outcome of first reoffence, for reoffenders only					
			Court outcome	Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
Overall	77	264,278	Either way	63.6	67.4	-15 to +7	No	0.49
			Summary	35.1	27.4	-3 to +19	No	0.16

Table 5: Number of proven reoffences that received each court outcome after being committed in a one year period by advisors in the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme, compared with similar non-participants (reoffenders only; the indictable-only category is excluded as low numbers prevent a reliable estimate of difference)

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One year proven reoffending frequency by court outcome, for reoffenders only (offences per person)					
			Court outcome	Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
Overall	77	264,278	Either way	1.6	1.9	-0.7 to +0.1	No	0.17
			Summary	0.9	0.8	-0.2 to +0.5	No	0.42

Tables 6-7 show measures of custodial sentencing, for reoffenders only. Rates are expressed as percentages and frequencies are expressed per person.

Table 6: Proportion of advisors in the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme who received a custodial sentence for their first proven reoffence, compared with similar non-participants (reoffenders only)

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One year rate of custodial sentencing for first proven reoffence, for reoffenders only				
			Treatment group rate (%)	Comparison group rate (%)	Estimated difference (% points)	Significant difference?	p-value
Overall	77	264,278	28.6	48.0	-30 to -9	Yes	< 0.01

Table 7: Number of custodial sentences received in a one year period by advisors in the St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme, compared with similar non-participants (reoffenders only)

Analysis	Number in treatment group	Number in comparison group	One year frequency of custodial sentencing, for reoffenders only (sentences per person)				
			Treatment group frequency	Comparison group frequency	Estimated difference	Significant difference?	p-value
Overall	77	264,278	0.8	1.4	-0.9 to -0.3	Yes	< 0.01

Profile of the treatment group

The St Giles Trust Peer Advisor Programme is delivered both in prison and in the community, and advisors may be offenders who have received either a custodial or non-custodial sentence. Some advisors are non-offenders, and cannot be included in a Justice Data Lab analysis. People apply to become advisors and are selected by a process that includes an interview.

Participants included in overall analysis (395 offenders)

- 87% male, 13% female
- 59% white, 31% black, 7% Asian, 1% other ethnicity, 2% unknown ethnicity
- 88% UK nationals, 6% non-UK nationals, 6% unknown nationality
- Aged 18 to 68 at the time of release from prison or of receiving a non-custodial sentence (mean age 35 years)
- Year of release from custody or of receiving a non-custodial sentence:
 - 2003-2007 6%
 - 2008-2011 39%
 - 2012-2015 55%
- Sentence type:
 - Custodial 97%
 - Community order or suspended sentence order 3%

Participants not included in analyses (619 offenders with available data)

- 77% male, 23% female
- 55% white, 37% black, 5% Asian, 1% other ethnicity, 2% unknown ethnicity
- 88% UK nationals, 7% non-UK nationals, 5% unknown nationality

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

For **934 people** without any records in the reoffending database, no personal information is available.

Information on individual risks and needs was available for 286 people in the overall treatment group (72%), recorded near to the time of their original conviction. Among these people, it is estimated that:

- 62% were unemployed at the time of conviction or were expected to be unemployed upon release (the definition of employment includes full-time, part-time, temporary and casual employment)
- 53% had some or substantial problems with understanding other people's views
- 46% used drugs weekly or had some or substantial problems with alcohol use
- 30% had some or substantial psychological problems
- 27% had no fixed abode
- 16% had some or substantial problems with interpersonal skills
- 6% had substantial problems with antisocial attitudes

Matching the treatment and comparison groups

Each of the three analyses matched a comparison group to the relevant treatment group. A summary of the matching quality is as follows:

- In the overall analysis, all variables were well matched.
- The matching quality was somewhat lower in the two Wandsworth Prison analyses. Most variables were well matched, some variables were reasonably matched and a small number of variables were poorly matched, including offender age.

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

2,075 records were submitted for analysis by St Giles Trust, corresponding to 1,948 people.

1,948

662 people (34%) were excluded because they could not be identified on the Police National Computer (PNC). Some of these people may not have committed any offences.

1,286

872 people (45%) were excluded because they did not have a record in the reoffending database that corresponded to their period of participation in the programme. It is estimated that 118 of these people had not completed a year from prison release when the latest reoffending information was recorded.

414

9 people (<1%) were excluded because they had committed at least one proven sexual offence before starting the programme, so their reoffending patterns are expected to be different to others.

405

10 people (<1%) were excluded because they reoffended before starting the programme.

395

The overall treatment group contained 20% of the participants originally submitted. 39 people from the overall treatment group were also analysed separately as they had all served sentences in Wandsworth Prison.

395

Overall treatment group
(national comparison
group: 873,764 records)

39

**Wandsworth Prison treatment
group** (national comparison
group: 55,263 records)

39

**Wandsworth Prison treatment
group** (regional comparison
group: 10,123 records)

Contact points

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www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/uk-statistical-system

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